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NOBODY WINS!**

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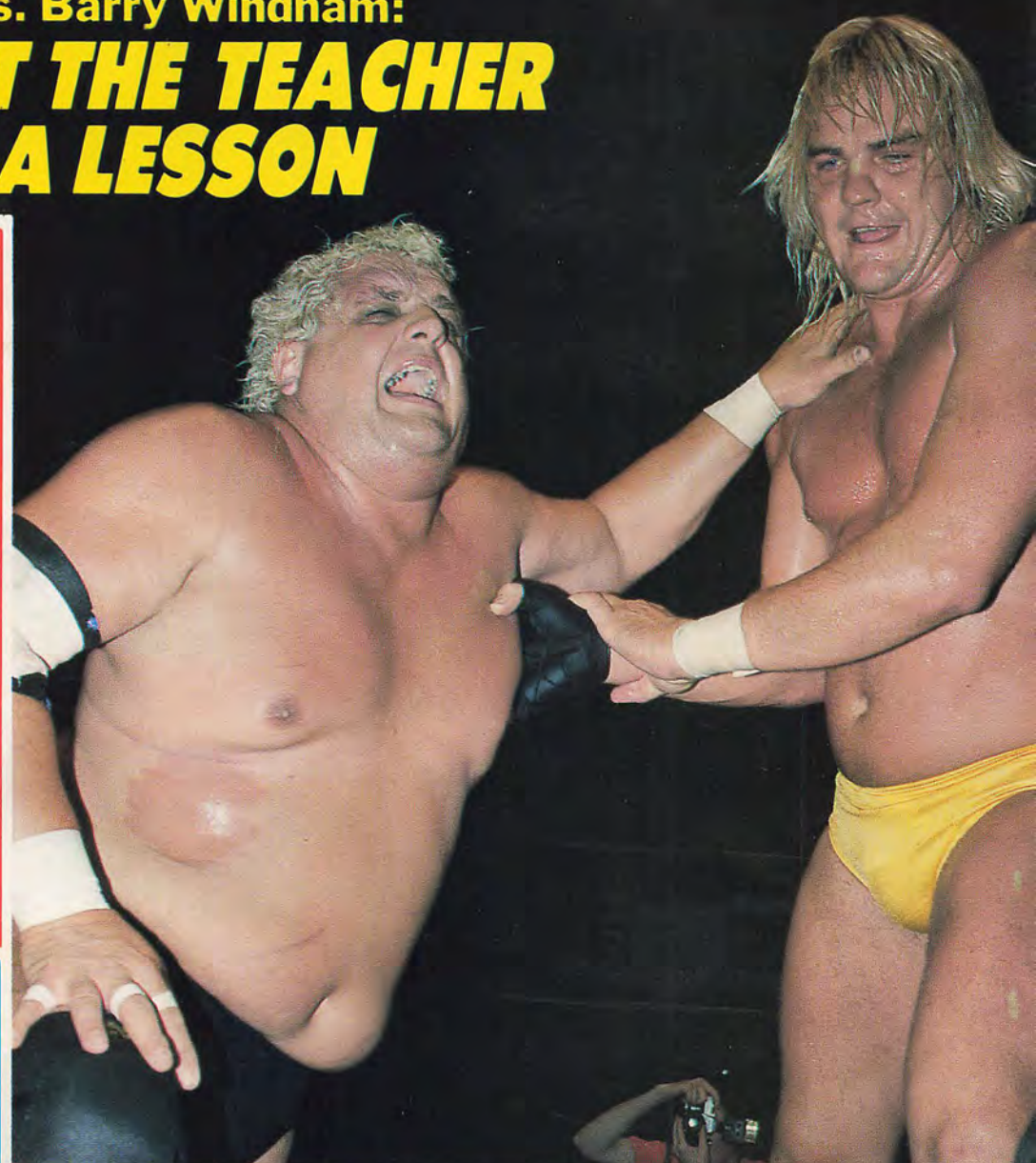
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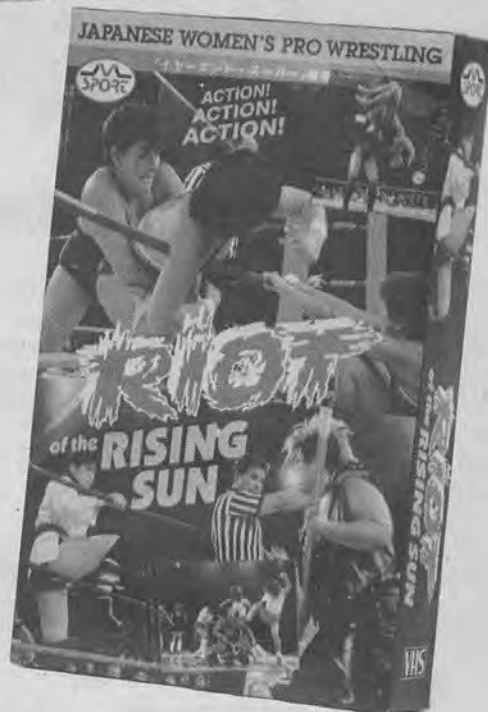
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Wrestling

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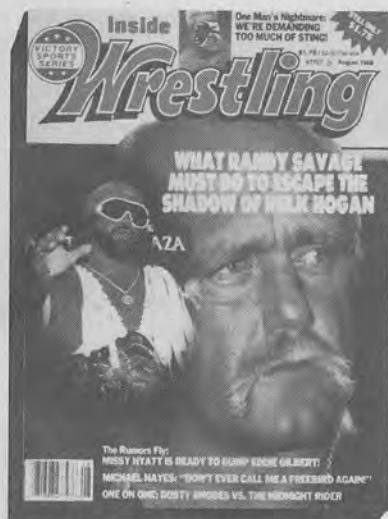
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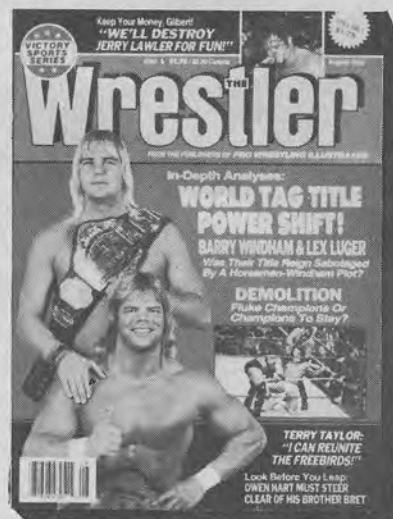
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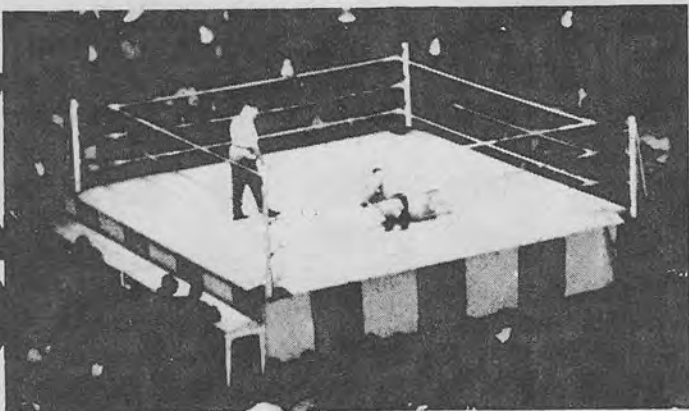
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SINCERELY YOURS

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GARVIN GALL

I'm no moralist, but what Ronnie Garvin has done—turning against Dusty Rhodes at the Baltimore Great American Bash—certainly ranks as one of the most heinous acts in wrestling history. Some may say that Barry Windham's betrayal of Lex Luger is

worse, but I disagree. When you listen to Windham, at least he had a legitimate *reason* for the betrayal (a perceived career improvement). Garvin's only excuse is money.

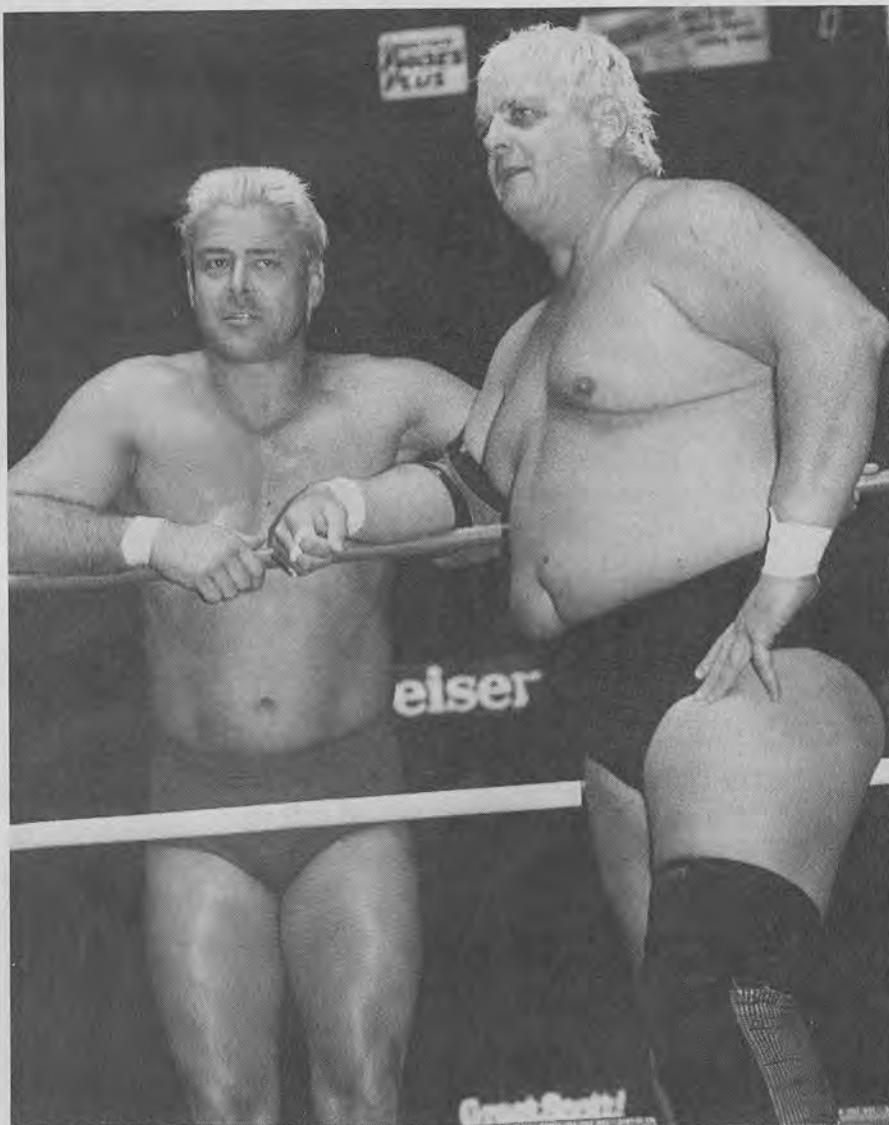
A former NWA World champion, Garvin is a wrestler of great skills. I can understand his disappointment at

being slighted in terms of receiving (or, more appropriately, *not* receiving) title shots at Ric Flair. Certainly I can understand his feeling of inferiority as younger stars get the attention that is rightfully his.

Maybe all of this frustration has built up inside of him, and these are the real reasons he's turned against Dusty—and, inevitably, the rest of his friends. But the factor that pushed him over the edge into J.J. Dillon's slimy camp is strictly money. And that's not a good enough reason to abandon the commitment to fair play that has been his trademark for well over a decade.

I'm disgusted and disappointed in Ronnie. I hope he comes to his senses soon—before it's too late.

PAMELA POLSTON
Burlington, VT



Ronnie Garvin and Dusty Rhodes were close friends and tag team partners only months ago. Garvin's ambush of Dusty at the Baltimore Great American Bash changed all that.

THE FIGHT RAGES

For wrestling fans, the debate between the WWF and the NWA goes on without end. It seems to me that most fans and journalists think the wrestling in the NWA is better. I agree.

On June 24, the WWF came to Richmond, Virginia, for the first time. The crowd was good; the wrestling, unfortunately, was not. Although all the titles were on the line, it was some of the worst wrestling I have ever seen.

What bothered me was that none of the wrestlers used their famous finishing moves! Savage didn't use his flying elbow, DiBiase didn't use his sleeper-hold, The Honky Tonk Man didn't use his "shake, rattle, and roll" neckbreaker, and Demolition didn't

use the decapitation move.

Strike Force—due to Martel's injury—was replaced by The Powers of Pain. I guess Warlord and Barbarian have finally succeeded in imitating The Road Warriors. They even had their faces painted and their hair cut like the Warriors. I guess if Vince McMahon can't get the real thing, he'll settle for the imitation. Demolition vs. The Powers of Pain was a boring slug-and-punch affair.

It turned out that the best match of the evening was an undercard bout pitting Brady Boone against Steve Lombardi. This match contained good, solid wrestling and many scientific holds. It wasn't just two men punching and kicking each other. I think it is sad when a preliminary bout is actually the best match on a card.

From now on, I won't waste my money to see the WWF live.

MICHAEL DAVID
Richmond, VA



Magnificent Muraco immobilizes Rick Steamboat with a nervehold to the neck. Correspondent John Gibbons feels that both these men are far better wrestlers—and Intercontinental champions—than Honky Tonk Man can ever hope to be.

HONKY HERESY!

I'm writing this as The Honky Tonk Man continues to fool people into believing that he's the greatest WWF Intercontinental champion ever. Try to remember, folks, that longevity doesn't mean everything. Let's take a look at a list of former I-C champs who certainly were better than Honky Tonk:

● Pedro Morales. Not only was he a

two-time I-C champ, but he held all of the WWF belts at one time or another. He held the WWF title from 1971 through 1973, and captured the tag team title from The Samoans in 1980 with Bob Backlund (of course, you'll remember, they had to vacate that tag title because Backlund held the WWF title at the time).

● Randy Savage. This one-time I-C beltholder is the current WWF World champion. He has also held the Mid-Southern title many times.

● Tito Santana. During the 1980s, Santana has held the I-C belt twice. He has also been part of a WWF championship tag team twice.

● Rick Steamboat. No one can deny Steamboat's immense talents. He has held a number of titles including the WWF I-C title, the NWA World tag team title, the U.S. heavyweight belt, and the Mid-Atlantic championship.

● Don Muraco. All told, the Magnificent one has held the I-C belt for

nearly 18 months. He may be the man to finally dethrone the Honky Tonk Man.

I think, when you review the history of the great I-C champions, you invariably conclude that The Honky Tonk Man is, in fact, the *worst* I-C champ of all time!

JOHN GIBBONS
Syracuse, NY

AWA ARGUMENTS

The AWA is really in over their heads now. This guy called "The Big K" has been using his segment on AWA broadcasts in a completely irresponsible manner. He regularly makes idiotic remarks about other federations.

For example, he said recently that The Rock 'n' Roll Express had obtained four NWA tag team titles, but



Rick Morton and Robert Gibson—The Rock 'n' Roll Express—held the NWA World tag team title four times. Jenny LaMott writes to condemn the AWA's Big K for saying those reigns were in the "minor leagues."

that was in the so-called "minor league," and that the AWA belts (held by the sorriest excuse for a team—Bad Company) were out of reach because Ricky and Robert had gotten soft.

He's also been saying that The Midnight Rockers are still in the AWA. Sorry to disappoint you, Big K, but I've seen Marty and Shawn recently in the WWF.

Another thing: The AWA champ is Jerry Lawler, but has the AWA ever heard of impartial referees? On a CWA show, there was a telephone hotline to call before the title match between Curt Hennig and Jerry
(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I hope Ronnie Garvin gets hurt.

I don't like him, and I don't like what he represents. For what he has done to the fans, he deserves nothing less than a solid thrashing. Hopefully, one that would put an end to his ugly career.

I've received some criticism from my co-workers for my harsh view of Garvin. They tell me not to trash a man's entire career for the actions of recent months. I say, to hell with his career. To hell with him.

He was never a good person. He couldn't have been. A good person doesn't suddenly say, "That's it, I'm not a good person anymore."

Ronnie Garvin was a "good person" for as long as it served his purposes. He started his career as a rulebreaker, and while I have no love for that approach, I can at least respect a man for being honest with himself and following his convictions.

If Garvin wanted to remain a rulebreaker, fine. At least we would all know where he stood. But he lied to us, asked us to trust him, and then stabbed us in the back. It's clear now that the only reason he was ever a fan favorite is because that's where he thought the money was.

Apparently, having ridden the wave of popularity as long as he could, he sold out, attacked his friend Dusty Rhodes, and has even turned against his brother Jim (the man he, ironically, would not speak to for years because he was a rulebreaker).

Seeing Garvin as he truly is makes me wonder just how many so-called fan favorites are playing us for fools. I would hope that the majority of the wrestlers calling themselves "good" actually are. I would hope one of those men would step forward and put Ronnie Garvin in his place: out of wrestling.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

ONE DAY, ABOUT 12 years ago, Tony Atlas was sitting in a hotel restaurant in Amarillo, Texas, eating fried chicken and gravy. Atlas, who had just broken into wrestling, was only 20 years old when he met Bruiser Brody for the first time.

"He came up to me and said, 'Hey, is that chicken good?' and I laughed and said, 'Yeah,'" Atlas recalled. "Then he said, 'Hi, I'm Bruiser Brody. If there's anything you need or want to know, you just come to the Bruise.'"

Much happened to Brody and Atlas after that first meeting. Try as he did, Atlas never got the break he needed to become a superstar, although the powerfully built musclemán was always popular with the fans. Brody, on the other hand, went on to become one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, even though he never won a world championship in the United States. He was, however, a three-time All-Japan International champion in the country where he achieved his greatest stardom. In this country, he was simply known as unbeatable.

Unbeatable, but—tragically—not immortal. On Saturday night, July 16, in the locker room of Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Frank Goodish, a.k.a. Bruiser Brody, was stabbed twice in the abdomen. He died the following morning in the operating room at the Rio Piedras Medical Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Atlas, meanwhile, was left confronting the most important decision of his life. You see, Atlas was in the locker room when Brody was murdered and, apparently, he was the only one who saw what happened. He was also in the

(Continued on page 52)



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LONGEVITY IS ONE way of determining the relative excellence of a champion. Some feel it's the best way, although intangibles such as outside interference, self-disqualification, and frequency of title defenses ought to be considered as well.

A lengthy title reign doesn't necessarily mean that the champion is a good one. The Honky Tonk Man, current WWF Intercontinental titlist, is a perfect example. His reign is the longest of any I-C champion ever, but he is arguably the worst I-C titlist in WWF history. Honky Tonk's wrestling skill and his level of respect among fans and peers both fall far below those of previous champions like Pedro Morales, Don Muraco, Tito Santana, and Randy Savage.

Nevertheless, those champions who manage to hold a belt for more than just a few weeks are doing *something* right. Championships turn a wrestler into a target, bringing on a slew of challengers who want to make that climb to the top of the hill. But they also bring money and recognition to the man who wears the belt.



Genichiro Tenryu

And money and recognition are the two biggest factors that make the wrestling world go 'round.

A look at this issue's "Roll Call Of Champions" on page 65 shows 67 titles listed. Of those 67 championships, only 14 have not changed hands during 1988 (as of press time, of course!); 13 of those 14 champions gained their titles during 1987, with only one earning his belt during 1986 and keeping it until now: All-Japan United National heavyweight champion Genichiro Tenryu, who defeated Ted DiBiase in a tournament final for the title on April 26 of that year.

"There is a great deal of competition in Japan for all levels of titles," Tenryu told me through an interpreter during a recent telephone interview. "In All-Japan federation, there is as much competition for United title as there is for International title held by Jumbo Tsuruta. Japanese wrestlers and American wrestlers alike compete for these belts, and the level of competition is extremely keen."

I asked Tenryu how he felt about being the most enduring champion of those listed in our "Roll Call."

"I know, of course, that I have defended my title successfully for a long time," he said, "and I wrestle

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

frequently in title matches. But to be the longest? It is an honor, it brings honor to my family, and to the All-Japan federation. Thank you." One wrestler who is not so honorable—but who nevertheless boasts one of the longest title reigns in our "Roll Call"—is Mike Rotundo, the Florida heavyweight champion. Rotundo won the belt from Oliver Humperdink in Lakeland, Florida, on April 18, 1987.

Since then, his title defenses have been infrequent, and he has even gone so far as to literally hand the belt over to his Varsity Club partner Rick Steiner.

"Look, Peters, what I do with the Florida title is my own business," Rotundo sneered. "So what if I didn't defend the belt every night? Hell, I defended it the minimum number of times necessary to remain champion as deemed proper by the NWA rulebook. You have a problem with that? The rules are the rules, pal, and all I did was follow the rules."

What about his handing the belt over to Steiner?

"Look, buddy, I'm NWA TV champion, too, and that title has its own responsibilities. I can't be off defending the TV title one night, the Florida title the next, and so on. So Rick takes up the slack. And you know something? It's all perfectly legal. Just go check the rulebook if you think I'm handing you a line."

Rotundo is right; it is legal. But that doesn't make it right. In my opinion, a champion ought to be defending his title as often as possible against as varied a field of competitors as can be. Which is why Jerry Lawler's current AWA reign is so exciting. If Lawler can hold that title for a significant length of time, he's going to go down in the history books as one of the greatest world champions the sport has ever seen.

Just for fun, I took a look at a year's worth of *Inside Wrestling* magazines (cover-dated November 1987 through October 1988) and calculated how many titles in our "Roll Call" change hands over the course of a month. The average is 13 title changes per month (13.25 to be precise), ranging from a low of nine (take a look at the August 1988 issue) to a high of 20 (July 1988).

Those figures lend credibility to the assertion that the longevity of a title reign is a very rare thing. We should give credit to those champions who manage to achieve a reign longer than six months. But in doing so, let's remember that the length of a title reign only tells part of the story. Ultimately, it's the honorable qualities of the champion—or the lack thereof—that determine the place of that champion in wrestling history.

That's something that champions like Mike Rotundo and The Honky Tonk Man ought to think about. □

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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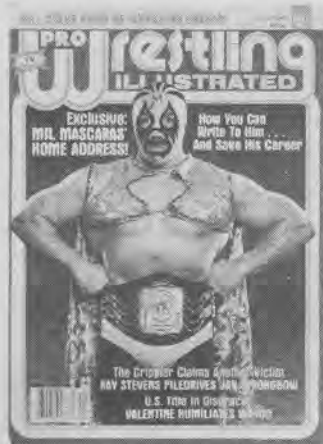
June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blaisse.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Arms, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

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NAMES MAKING

The murder of legendary ring star **Bruiser Brody** on July 17 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, is still under investigation as this is being written (see "Behind the Dressing Room Door" on Page 10 and the November 1988 issue of *The Wrestler* for the complete story), but those who knew "The Mercenary of Mayhem" will never understand his tragic death.



BRUISER BRODY

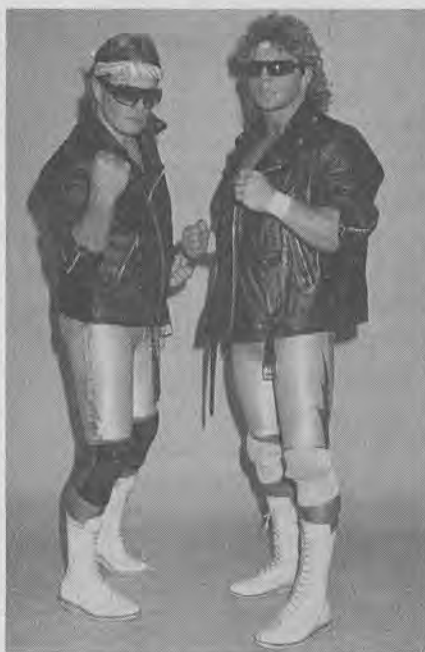
Besides being an outstanding wrestler who rarely lost a match, Brody was a true gentleman outside the ring. Sometimes, a wrestler's personality is totally different once he gets into the ring, and for that reason most fans never saw the *real* Brody. That's unfortunate. Brody will, instead, be remembered for his feud with WWF World champion **Bruno Sammartino** in the mid-1970s, his series of matches against **Andre the Giant**, **Ric Flair**, and **Abdullah the Butcher**, and his superstar status in Japan, where he was revered by the fans and feared by fellow wrestlers.

A Bruiser Brody memorial card was

scheduled for August 29 in Tokyo. Stan Hansen, Brody's longtime friend and tag team partner, has lately been leading the chant of "Brody, Brody" during his own matches. Undoubtedly, Bruiser will be sorely missed.

Bruce Hart and **Brian Pillman** are protesting the July 22 referee's decision in Calgary, Alberta, that cost them the Stampede International tag belts. Late in their match against **The Cuban Commandos**, Pillman was in trouble and tagged Hart. But referee **Jurgen Hermann** did not see the tag because he was busy keeping **The Cuban Assassin** out of the ring. Moments later, Pillman put **Jerry Morrow** in a sleeperhold while Hart did the same to Assassin. As Hermann tried to get Hart and Assassin out of the ring, **Johnny Smith** ran in, hit Pillman with a pair of brass knuckles, and ran out. Morrow covered Pillman and Hermann counted the pin.

Hart and Pillman protested that Pillman made a legal tag, therefore the pin on Pillman shouldn't have count-



HART & PILLMAN

ed. They also claim that Smith's attack was illegal. Hart and Pillman have also requested rematches against the Commandos as well as individual matches for Smith's British Commonwealth title.

The Continental Wrestling Federation's "Road to Birmingham" title tournament, originally scheduled for August 22 at Boutwell Auditorium, has been postponed. A new date has not been announced . . . **Vince Apollo**, a former World Class manager and partner in **Gary Hart's** New Age Management, is now wrestling in the Central States area. Apollo is after WWA champion **Mike George**.

From the "Who's Hot, Who's Not" Department in the WWF: Former AWA World tag team champions **The Midnight Rockers** are hot. They wrestled



THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

The Rougeau Brothers on a recent Madison Square Garden card and received a rousing ovation from the crowd. Then, after the Rougeaus won the match, **The British Bulldogs**—who are hot once again—ran in to help

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

the Rockers. Later in the card, the Rougeaus interfered in the Bulldogs' match against tag team champs **Demolition** (who were getting surprising fan support until **The Powers of Pain**—also hot—arrived in the WWF). And two-by-four brandishing **Hacksaw Duggan** might be hottest of all—with the exception, of course, of World champion **Randy Savage** and **Hulk Hogan**.



THE POWERS OF PAIN

Who's Not? **Terry Taylor** has been in an awful slump since arriving in the WWF. The former UWF TV and WCCW Texas champ fell victim to **The Iron Sheik's** cobra clutch in several matches and had a hard time with journeyman wrestler **Lanny Poffo** at the Garden before winning with a scorpion leglock. **Ted DiBiase** recently won two matches in the same night, but then lost the third, the one he really wanted, to Savage. And **The Bolsheviks** have taken several whippings at the

hands of The Powers of Pain.

Dusty Rhodes' son **Dustin** has refereed several NWA matches and wants to be a wrestler. Dusty is training him and has spoken with Pacific Northwest promoter **Don Owen** about signing Dustin for a series of matches... Former AWA World champion **Curt Hennig** has signed with the WWF after repeated attempts to win the AWA title from **Jerry Lawler** proved futile.



VON ERICH VS. LAWLER

Speaking of Lawler, he and World Class champion **Kerry Von Erich** battled to a 60-minute draw in a classic title vs. title match in Memphis... A new tag team called **The Lords of Discipline** are after the All-California tag team belts held by **Peter Maivia Jr.** and **Prof. Tanaka**.

Eric Embry narrowly escaped losing his World Class junior heavyweight title to **Steve Casey** in a recent best-of-three-matches contest. After splitting the first two, Casey requested a cage



ERIC EMBRY

match for the final. But at the end of that match, Casey collided with referee **John Keaton** and knocked him unconscious. Embry then tossed powder at Casey and went for the pin, but Keaton was still unconscious. Casey took the advantage and used a bulldog headlock on Eric, then powerslammed him for the pin. Keaton, however, still hadn't woken up, so Casey tried to revive him. As Keaton got up, Embry took a chain out of his trunks, knocked out Casey, and covered him for the pin.

A final sad note: **J.R. Foley**, who managed **Dynamite Kid**, **Junkyard Dog**, **Giant Haystacks**, and many others in the Stampede area several years ago, recently died of lung cancer. Foley was one of the most controversial and talented managers in Stampede history.

That's all for now. See you at the matches. □

THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

BRUISER BRODY'S DEATH mimicked his life; both were consumed by violence. But the manner of his death, a fatal stabbing at the hands of the accused, Jose Gonzales (a.k.a. The Invader), mocks the legend of indestructibility Brody spent a career shaping.

According to preliminary police reports, Gonzales called Brody into the shower area of the dressing rooms at Juan Ramon Lobriel Stadium in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and stabbed him several times with a kitchen knife. Gonzales was deadly in his precision. Brody survived stab wounds to his chest and throat, but could not withstand the slash that opened his liver.

I had come to expect many things from Bruiser Brody: a boisterous lust for mayhem, a weakness for practical jokes, a vigorous intelligence (there was a sharp brain under all that hair), and an unquenchable thirst for victory. Brody's presence spoke of a passionate and unmanageable love for the underbelly of life.

He was bred to the savagery of pro wrestling as a thoroughbred is bred to run. There is no describing the insurmountable horror and injustice of Gonzales' alleged act. Brody's life demanded a better,



Jose Gonzales armlocks Bruiser Brody during a 1976 match in Long Island's Nassau Coliseum. Gonzales was charged with first-degree murder following the fatal stabbing of Brody on July 16 in Puerto Rico.

more heroic ending.

I have distinct memories of the man accused of ending Brody's life. Ten years ago, Gonzales was part of an ignominious WWF grouping that included Joe Turco, Lee Wong, and Frank Valois. These "competitors," distinguished by their frumpy presence and disabling skills, became a source of ridicule among my neighborhood's wrestling fans.

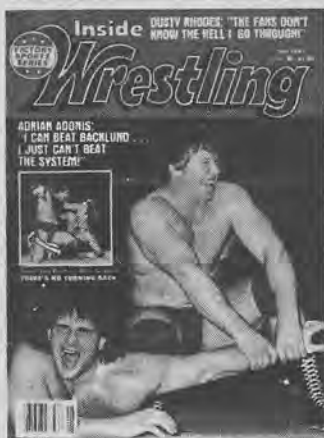
Each week, these silly men refined the art of preliminary wrestling to bumbling, stumbling lows—much to the hoots and guffaws of the television audience. How bad can wrestlers be? I recall a match involving Mike Pappas, whom Gonzales outweighed by 60 pounds, that ended in under 30 seconds. Gonzales, attempting a dropkick,

(Continued on page 56)

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Inside Wrestling

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MAY 1982

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.



MARCH 1986

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Omdorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Col- or coverage of WMV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

I WANT TO tell you about the strange dinner I had with Adrian Adonis.

I was in Minneapolis back around 1981 or so to cover the escalating AWA feud between Adonis and Baron Von Raschke. Adonis, on whom I admit having a minor crush at the time, looked bored answering reporters' questions before the match. I decided to spice things up. "Do you feel threatened," I asked, "by the fact Jesse Ventura receives more recognition than you?"

He had begun to answer, became livid midway through his response, and stormed out of the room. I shrugged and checked my notes. Other reporters fled to the hospitality table for coffee and donuts before the next wrestler arrived.

Suddenly, Adonis stormed back into the room. Without warning, he was upon me. "You think you're a funny lady, don't you?" he screamed. "You think Ventura is cuter than I am, don't you? You think Ventura is smarter than me, don't you? Let me teach *you* a lesson, missy!"

Adonis grabbed my notes and my pocketbook and hurled them out an open window. I was younger then, and more than a little frightened. I began to cry.

"Owww," Adonis jokingly cried. "Owww. Is missy hurt? Did I hurt your *feelings* little girl? I'm sorry. Here, let me make *nice* to you." With that, Adonis lifted his hand as if to slap me and then fled the room. Reporters crowded around to console me.



Though a gay image characterized the last years of his career, Adrian Adonis was somewhat more streamlined and macho as he stalked the AWA in early 1981.

After 10 minutes I calmed down enough to worry about the notes and the contents of my purse the wind had, by then, swept into oblivion.

My colleagues were kind enough to fill in the blanks from their notes. But, being the only female in the room, they could not assist me in my most important task of self-repair: makeup. Tears had etched mascara tracks down my cheeks. I looked like I spent

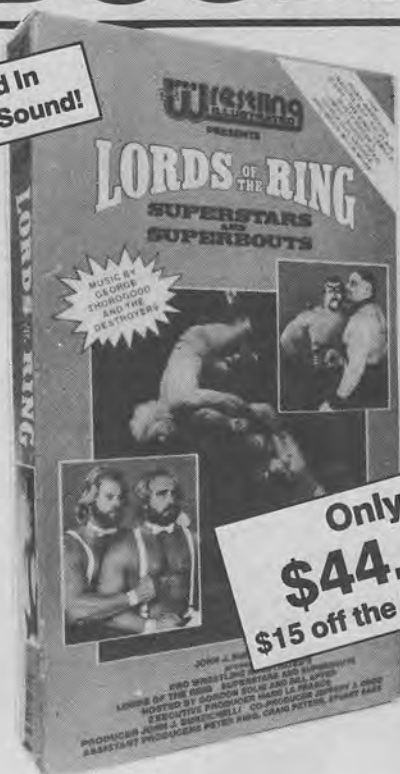
the night in a dumpster.

I hurried down the hall toward the rest room, my head down to avoid anyone who might recognize me. *Boom!* I crashed into Adonis, who was headed the other way. Embarrassed, I tried to shield my face from him. He grabbed my hands and placed them at my sides. He smoothed the hair from my eyes and wiped my cheeks with the sleeve of his

(Continued on page 60)

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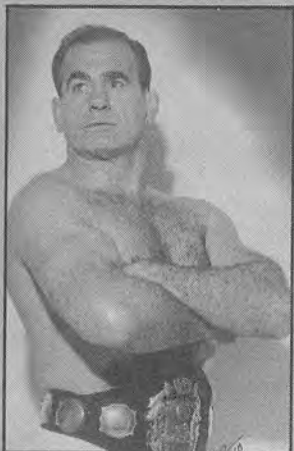
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



LOU THESZ

The six-time former NWA World heavy-weight champion resides with his wife at their home in Norfolk, Virginia. At 72, the man who is known as the sport's goodwill ambassador still competes on occasion, and is currently orga-

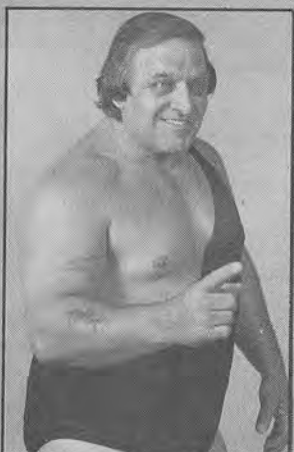
nizing a new wrestling training center. "We are going to teach wrestling, weight training, and other aspects of the mat sport," said the man who may well go down in history as the definitive scientific star of the century.



FABULOUS MOOLAH

Another ageless wonder, Moolah is still active in the sport after establishing herself as the greatest female wrestling champion of all time. She is currently wrestling and promoting for All-

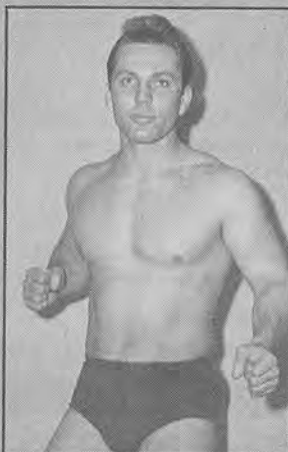
American Championship Wrestling, an independent organization in the Carolinas. She also will tour Canada and Trinidad, but she claims that her main goal is to return to the WWF to regain the World women's title from Sherri Martel.



SWEDE HANSON

This raw-boned rule-breaker made his reputation during the mid-'60s as a tag team partner to Rip Hawk; together they formed one of the most hated teams of the decade. Hanson and Hawk captured a host of regional tag team titles,

but later Hanson changed his ways and became a fan favorite in the WWF during the '70s. This massive grappler is now living in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he is busy in the construction business.



PAUL CHRISTY

This handsome mid-west star was a favorite among female fans. He was voted Rookie of the Year in 1962. In 1983, he scored the biggest victory of his career when he captured the ICW title from Randy Savage. After wrestling in

the WWF for a few years, Christy left the sport and is now a motivational speaker, touring colleges and hotels offering discussions on relaxation, self-hypnosis, and the power of positive thinking.

INSIDE WRESTLING

148

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE GREAT INDIAN star Wahoo McDaniel is one of the most popular wrestlers in history (*"I've always tried to follow the rules and I've never forgotten my fans"*) ... Master of the Indian strap match, it is said he has never lost one (*"That's the God's honest truth; I can't be beaten"*) ... Known for his hard chops to opponents' chests (*"The hardest chops in wrestling, you'd better believe it"*) ... Attended the University of Oklahoma, where he majored in business administration and earned letters in wrestling and football (*"I probably would have gone into coaching if I didn't get involved in wrestling"*) ... Spent 15 years in pro football, during which time he was introduced to wrestling by Houston Oiler Hogan Worten in 1962 (*"I was hooked from the start"*) ... Began wrestling on a full-time basis in 1968 in Texas before moving to the Northeast, where he teamed with Bruno Sammartino and feuded with Ernie Ladd, Gene Kiniski, Bill Watts, and Waldo Von Erich (*"An important period of my life because these were great wrestlers"*) ... Feuded violently with former tag team partner Johnny Valentine upon his return to Texas in a battle for the American heavyweight championship (*"That was a blood war, one of the toughest of my life"*) ... Moved on to the AWA, where he

WAHOO McDANIEL

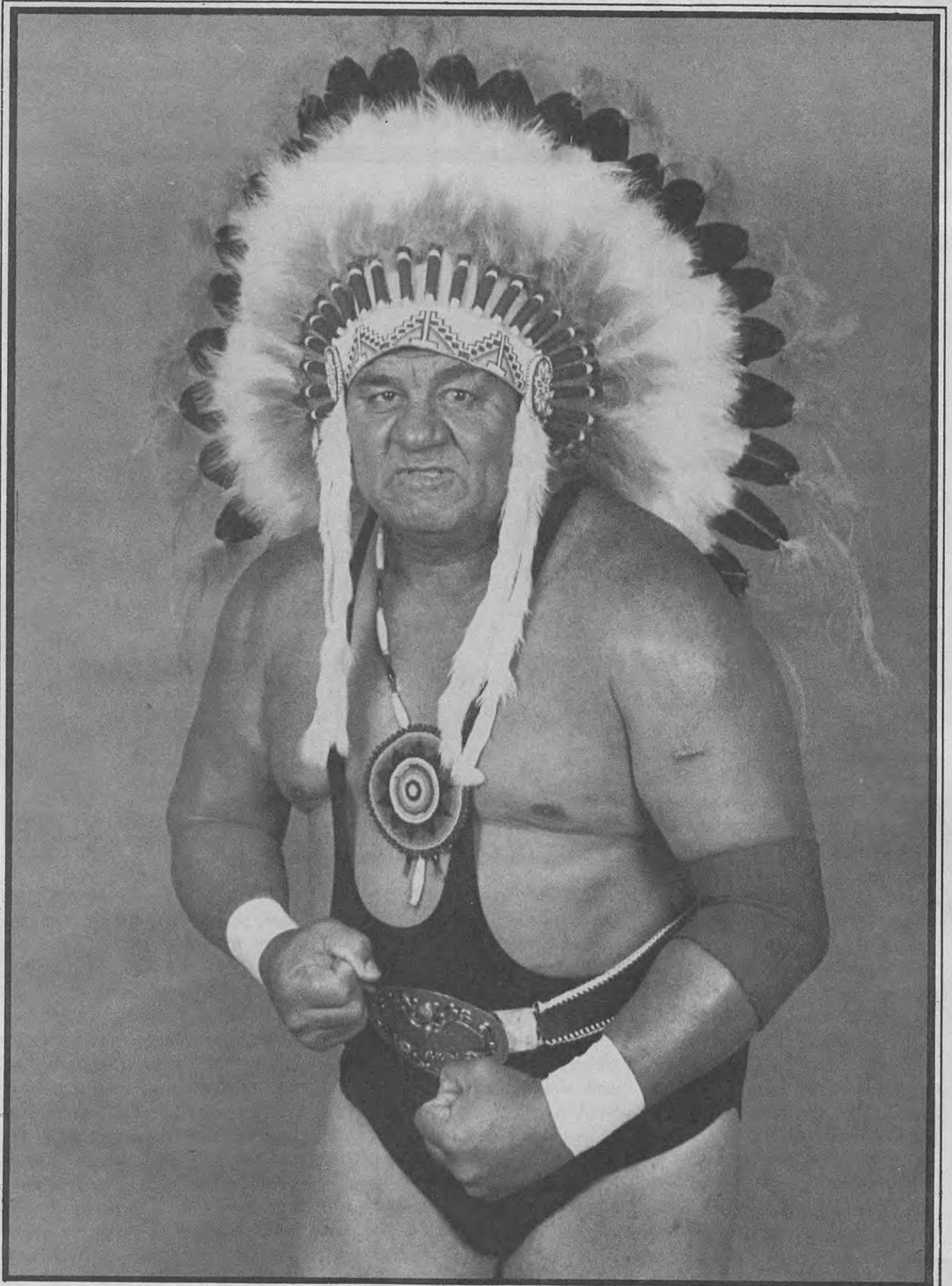


Wahoo McDaniel delivers one of his famous chops to the forehead of Manny Fernandez. When Fernandez tore Wahoo's heirloom headdress to shreds, it ignited a violent war between the two that shows no signs of abating.

feuded with Superstar Billy Graham, Dusty Rhodes, and Larry Hennig (*"More all-time greats, and another learning experience"*) ... Held the U.S. title several times between 1981 and 1984 while wrestling on and off in the Mid-Atlantic region (*"That's a record I'm very proud of"*) ... Teamed with Mark Youngblood to win the NWA World tag belts from Don Kernodle and Bob Orton Jr. on March 4, 1984, in Charlotte, North Carolina ... A dubious claim to fame: lost the Florida Southern title to Lex Luger on November 19, 1985; it was Luger's first title (*"I lost to a future great; it's nothing to be ashamed of"*) ... Engaged in a violent feud against Tully Blanchard, Ric Flair, and Arn Anderson during the

mid-1980s (*"I'll never respect those men because they never had the brains to respect me"*) ... Lost the National/U.S. title unification match to U.S. champ Nikita Koloff on September 28, 1986, in Los Angeles (*"I really wanted that title, for myself and for the fans"*) ... Returned to the AWA in June 1986, where he is still competing, and has made the AWA World and tag team belts his main priority (*"I'm determined to get them, and I won't stop until I do"*) ... Currently feuding with former tag team partner Manny Fernandez, who tore apart his Indian headdress during a television interview (*"That headdress has been in my family for generations; I'm gonna make Fernandez pay for what he did"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



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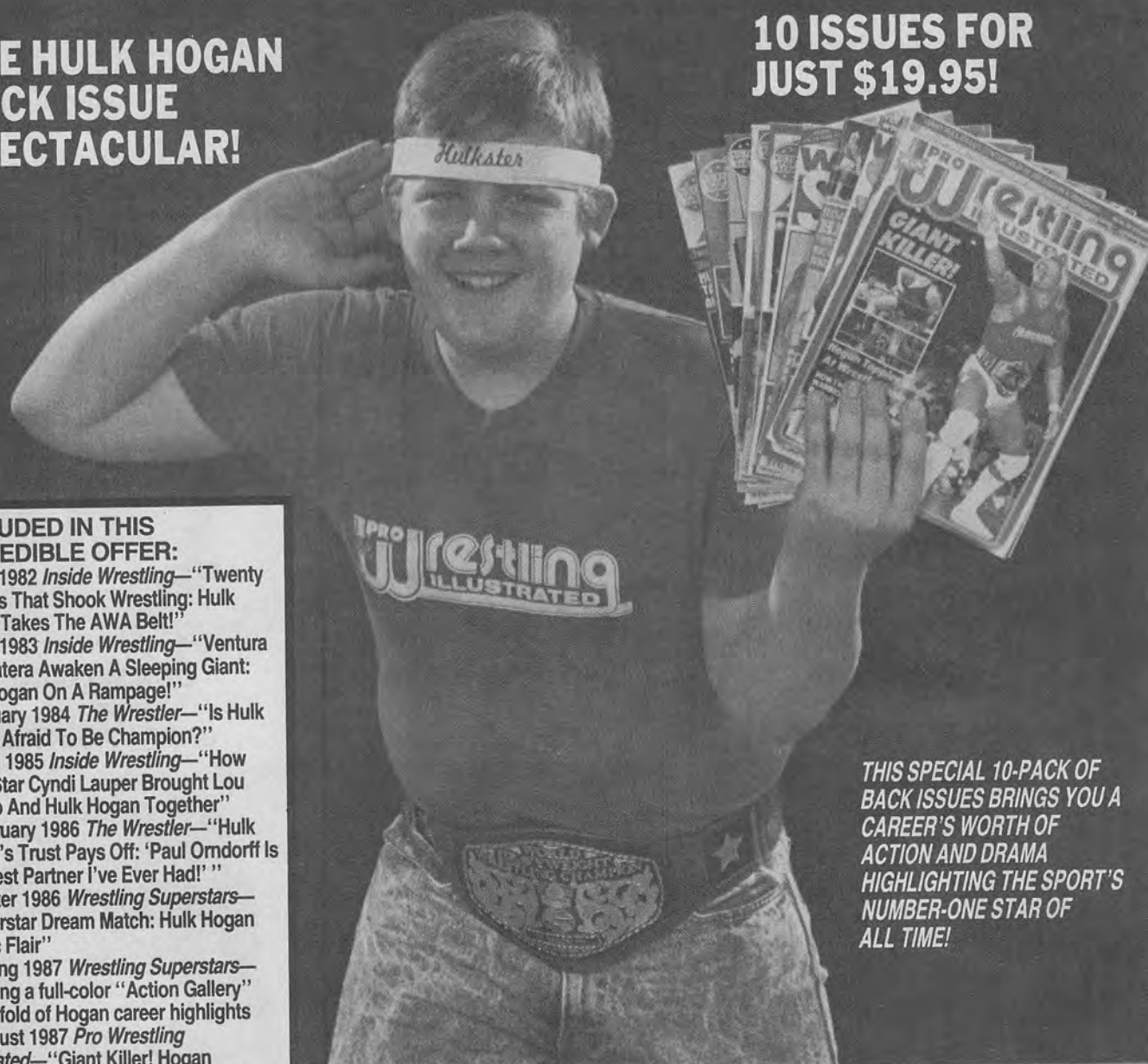
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CHICAGO, IL By Joe Duran



**JIM GARVIN
vs.
KEVIN SULLIVAN**



In this "Prince of Darkness" match, both contestants were blindfolded with hoods. After several minutes of aimlessly swinging at each other, using the fans' cheers for guidance, Garvin and Sullivan finally locked up. They went blow-for-blow until Garvin was able to roll the "Gamesmaster" into a small package and get the pin. Sullivan then clobbered Garvin, who was still wearing the hood, and chased after Precious, who narrowly escaped.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes beat Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, & Arn Anderson ... Lex Luger beat Barry Windham by countout ... Nikita Koloff & Sting defeated Dick Murdoch & Ivan Koloff ... Steve Williams pinned Al Perez.

PROVIDENCE, RI By George Robinson



**BAD NEWS BROWN
vs.
JIM NEIDHART**



From the beginning, the match looked as if it would be an easy win for Neidhart. He pounded Brown repeatedly, but Bad News took the blows and turned the bout's momentum with a series of kicks to "The Anvil's" belly and chest. Surprisingly, Neidhart came back, but his advantage was short-lived: Brown hooked the tights and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Hacksaw Duggan & Jake Roberts defeated Andre the Giant & Rick Rude ... Ultimate Warrior demolished Bobby Heenan ... George Steele beat Greg Valentine ... Don Muraco defeated Danny Davis ... Jacques and Raymond Rougeau pinned The Conquistadors ... Big Bossman beat Scott Casey.

DAVENPORT, IA By Jeffrey Brinson



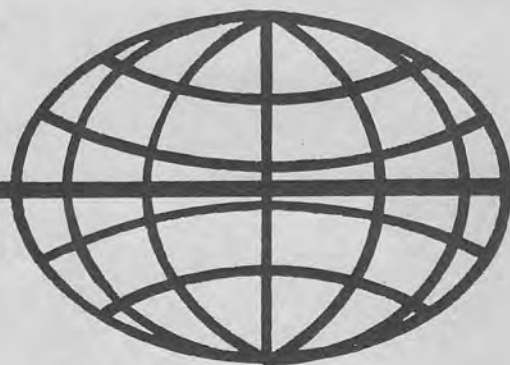
**DON MURACO
vs.
GREG VALENTINE**



Seeking revenge for Valentine having injured Superstar Graham, Muraco immediately took control of the match. When Muraco attempted his famous front-piledriver, Valentine collided with the referee, knocking him unconscious. Valentine then took advantage of the opportunity and used his controversial knee brace to brutalize "The Rock." After waking up the referee, Valentine scored an easy pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: Randy Savage defeated Ted DiBiase ... Jake Roberts and Rick Rude fought to a double-countout ... The Iron Sheik beat Scott Casey ... The Midnight Rockers downed The Conquistadors ... The British Bulldogs defeated The Bolsheviks by countout ... Big Bossman destroyed Stan Houston.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



GREENSBORO, NC By Floyd See



**AL PEREZ
vs.
BRAD ARMSTRONG**



Interference played a major role in this match. After several minutes of intense seesaw action, Armstrong attempted to suplex Perez. Perez's manager, Gary Hart, tripped Armstrong, causing Perez to fall on top of his opponent for the pin. Hart, all the while, held Armstrong's foot, insuring the three-count for his man.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors won a scaffold match over Ivan Koloff & The Russian Assassin ... Jim Garvin pinned Rick Steiner with a small package ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Shepherders ... The Fantastics beat U.S. tag champs The Midnight Express in a non-title match.

LAS VEGAS, NV By Constantine Kipnis



**MADUSA MICELI
vs.
BRANDI MAE**



Continuing her quest for improving the state of women's wrestling, AWA World women's champion Madusa Miceli successfully defended her title against Brandi Mae. The relatively inexperienced Mae was weak competition for the seasoned Miceli, who utilized her vast portfolio of moves and holds. Her victory was tainted, however, when she scored the pin with the help of Curt Hennig's interference.

OTHER BOUTS: Curt Hennig downed AWA World champion Jerry Lawler by DQ as Lawler threw Hennig over the top rope ... Baron Von Raschke beat Teijho Khan by DQ ... Bad Company beat The Guerrero Brothers when Mando Guerrero sent Pat Tanaka over the top rope.

DALLAS, TX By Tobias Wolny



**STEVE SIMPSON
vs.
JOHN TATUM**



For this brutal strap match, the competitors were attached to each other and the winner had to drag his opponent to all four corners of the ring to win. The action consisted mainly of brutal kicks and punches. After receiving numerous punishing shots to the groin and chest, Simpson turned the match around and succeeded in dragging Tatum to all four ringposts, thus claiming victory.

OTHER BOUTS: The Samoan Swat Team beat Kerry Von Erich & Michael Hayes ... Eric Embry successfully defended his junior heavyweight title against Steve Casey ... Kevin Von Erich defeated Iceman Parsons ... Black Bart downed Skip Young ... Bill Irwin beat Killer Brooks.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

NEW YORK, NY: Hell's Kitchen. Life is tough here. Crack dealers prowl the streets. There's a working girl on every corner. Take a walk around here after dark and you'd better be ready for trouble; during the day, too. Adrian Adonis was born here; he grew up here. This is where he developed the mental and physical toughness necessary to become a professional wrestler. This is where he



ADRIAN ADONIS

learned that life isn't easy, that nothing is given to anybody for free, unless you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. Adonis was born with a shining knife inches from his throat and a Saturday night special aimed at his temple. Adonis survived, and thrived, in Hell's Kitchen. He died about 2,000 miles north of here in the peaceful environs of Lewisporte, Newfoundland, and that's the sad irony of this whole situation. I'm not going to talk about

what Adonis became late in his career; it saddens and disgusts me just to think about it. I'm just going to talk about Adonis *before* he came to the WWF (the most recent time), when he wrestled like a man and wrestled better than almost anybody around. He was tough. He was rugged. He backed down to nobody. He used his instincts, his upbringing, to make it to the top. I took a walk through Hell's Kitchen the other night, went down around 10th Avenue and 45th Street, and talked to some people who call this pit their home. They know about living and surviving. Adonis knew about living and surviving. But he died when a moose stepped out into the middle of a highway and caused the van Adonis was riding in to crash into a rocky brook. It makes no sense. And it leaves me very sad, and just a little confused.

BALTIMORE, MD: Everybody's had their say about the Ric Flair-Lex Luger title match here on July 10, and now I'll have mine: Luger was robbed. He was hardly bleeding, but some worrywart from the Maryland State Athletic Commission decided to stop the match. Well, I have some words for him: Wrestling is for real men, and a little blood is part of the deal. This match was a classic, one of the few I've seen in the past few years. Luger and Flair were going at it like a pair of wild animals. Only once, when Luger's head was smashed into the outside ringpost, was J.J. Dillon guilty of interference. Besides that, Flair handled the assault on his own, and it *was* an assault. Luger was given his chance to go for the belt and he made the best of it. He attacked Flair from the opening bell. He gave him no quarter, not an inch to breathe, and was ready to put the match away when the ringside doctor called a halt. In doing so, he denied us the chance to see whether Flair would have actually submitted his precious belt.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



LUGER HEADLOCKS FLAIR

He denied us the chance to see whether Flair would have battled back. I'm not sure what's going to happen next, but I assume that Luger will get a rematch. I hope it doesn't take place in Maryland. Perhaps they should just throw these two guys on a deserted island, put 'em in a cage, and let them go at it to the finish. Let them bleed. Let them suffer. Let them settle things once and for all. After all, that's what they both *really* want.

LA CROSSE, WI: Rick Rude has lost sight of his goals, and when a wrestler loses sight of his goals he's finished. Take it from me, Rick Rude will never contend for the WWF World title. *Never*. He showed up for his match here wearing a new pair of wrestling tights that had Cheryl Roberts' picture drawn on them, which tells me that Rude is more concerned with antagonizing Jake Roberts and kiss-

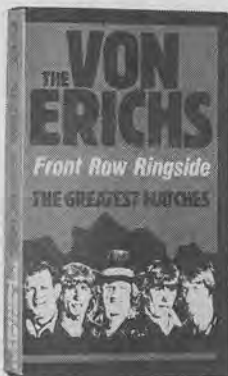
ing young women than he is with winning a championship. Here's a guy who was heavyweight champion in the World Class area and World tag team champ in the NWA; now he's next to nothing in the WWF. I have one question for Rude: When's the last time Jake Roberts was considered a stepping-stone to the World title? Meaningless feuds have killed many a promising career. Everybody knows what happened to Buzz Sawyer and Tommy Rich. That was the feud of the decade, but both men have gone nowhere since. Rude is feuding with Roberts because Jake's wife had the nerve to ignore his advances. That's all this comes down to. It has nothing to do with titles or advancing up the championship ladder. It has nothing to do with getting at Randy Savage, or even The Honky Tonk Man. Rude has it in him to become a major star. He's of championship caliber. But his mind and ego are getting in his way. I've seen it happen before, and I'm sorry to say that it's happening again.

CALGARY, ALBERTA: Up here in the northlands, Johnny Smith and Chris Benoit are engaging in the feud of the year—and nobody in the States knows about it. Smith, the rulebreaker, and Benoit, the fan favorite, are two of the most talented young stars in the sport, outstanding wrestlers who know their way around a wrestling ring. The feud revolves around the British Commonwealth title, which Smith won, then lost, then won again here. Biff Wellington is also trying to get a piece of Smith, but I think Benoit wants him for himself. I had lunch with Benoit at a little eatery just outside the city, and here's what he said: "Johnny Smith is a fine wrestler, and I respect his ability, but I don't respect the way he goes about doing things. He looks for every opportunity to break the rules, even though he'd probably do fine if he just stuck to what got him here in the first place. Well, I intend to teach him a lesson, and I'm not going to stop until I do." Benoit has only been in the sport for a few years, and he'll be the first to admit that he's a little green, but this guy is a star on the rise. He's kept a level head and isn't trying to do too much at once. I think he's going to make it. □



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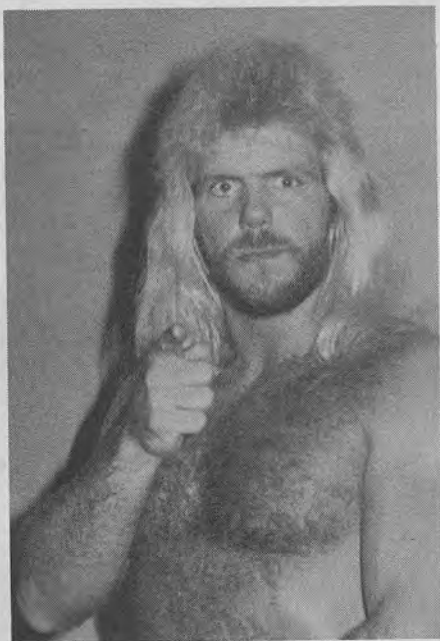
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Three Views, But All Agree: THE FREEBIRD FEUD MUST END!



By Michael Hayes

WHAT THIS ALL comes down to is that a man's gotta draw the line somewhere at some point in his life and show that he's a *man*. He's gotta stand up and admit that he may have made a few mistakes, but now he knows it and he's gonna *do* something about it. That's why I dedicated a song



Michael Hayes looks to the fans for approval as he prepares to hammer Buddy Roberts, his former Freebird partner, with a closed-fist punch.

to David and Mike Von Erich at the concert that night in Dallas, and that's why I invited Kevin and Kerry up there on stage with me.

Now I know that's going really far back in this whole thing, but when you get right down to it, that's how it all started. Buddy's got this idea in his

head that the Von Erichs and Freebirds are like dogs and cats. You know, natural enemies. And we've always gotta be biting and clawing at one another. But that's not the way it is. Things change.

The thing that gets me mad about all of this is that Buddy Jack couldn't

Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes are at war with former Freebird partner Buddy Roberts, but all three are ready for a cease fire—if their terms are met! In this Inside Wrestling exclusive, all three Fabulous Freebirds give their views on this violent war . . . and what must be done to end it

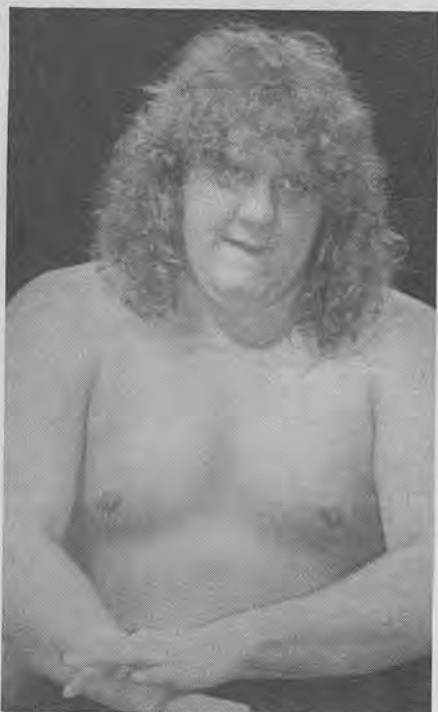
respect my decision to become friends with Kevin and Kerry—like it had anything to do with him in the first place. I wasn't turning my back on Buddy Jack when I shook hands with Kevin and Kerry. Hell, I was still ready to go out partying with him and raise some hell, but he couldn't take it.

I've always said that The Freebirds would live forever, one for all and all for one and all that, but that's not the way it is anymore. Buddy says that I'm not a Freebird anymore. If you wanna know the truth, I really don't care.

The thing that bothers me, though, is that me and Bamm Bamm have to be fighting against Buddy Jack when there's not much to fight about. I'm not saying we should get back together, but I'd like to see this thing come to an end. But I'm not backing down until he backs down, and I just don't see that happening. That's just the way it is.



Hayes covers Iceman Parsons for the pin. Iceman, dubbed "Blackbird" Parsons, is helping Roberts in the war against Hayes and Terry Gordy.



By Terry Gordy

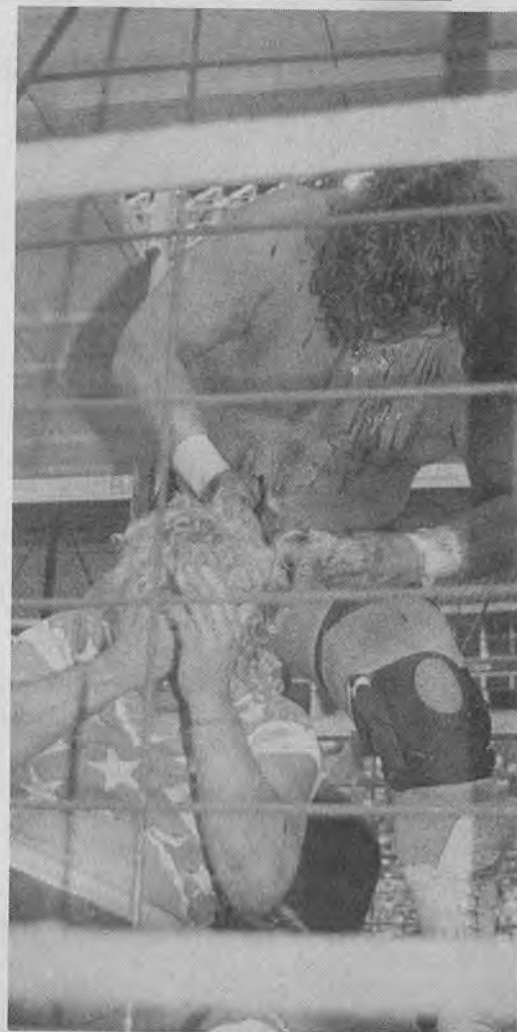
I JUST WANNA say one thing right at the outset. I was damn mad when I got back from Japan and saw that Michael and Buddy were still going at it with one another. I just figured that by this time, Buddy would've realized that he was being a jackass. But you know what they say, you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

You can say a lot of things about what's happened down here in Texas over the last six months or so, but if you ask me, Buddy's entirely the one to blame. That bum's always had a hard head, and he always will. You know, things had changed a bit with me and P.S. The fans were on our side for a change and we were getting to like that. But when I came back down here with Buddy Jack last year, I just figured I'd do whatever he wanted to do. It didn't matter to me.

But, you know, I didn't realize why the heck we were still going at it with the Von Erichs when there were more important things to be concerned about. So when Buddy told me to cut Michael's hair that day at Texas Stadium, there was no way I was gonna do it. Then when Buddy threw that hair cream crap in Steve Simpson's face, I knew he'd gone too far.

That's the way it is right now. Me and Michael ain't budging because we're right. You know what makes me laugh? It's seeing Buddy Jack going around with Iceman Parsons, [Gen. Skandor] Akbar, Kamala, and all the rest of them. If you ask me, they aren't my idea of drinking buddies.

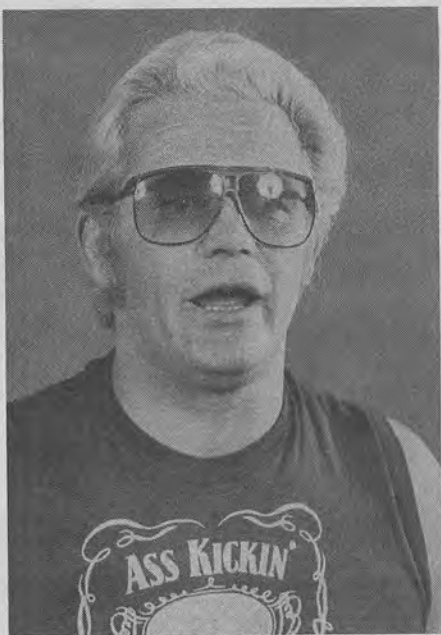
Then again, maybe Buddy's had too



Gordy clips Roberts' hair during the Triple Dome of Terror match at the May 8 Parade of Champions in Texas Stadium.

much Jack Daniel's. After all, that's why we call him Buddy Jack. Thing is, though, that as much as I'm against what Buddy's doing, I want The Freebirds to be back together. We're brothers, man, it's the way it was meant to be: Gordy, Hayes, and Roberts—The Fabulous Freebirds!

But Buddy's gotta make the first move.



By Buddy Roberts

THIS IS A waste of my damn time, that's what it is, and I wouldn't be doing this if my ol' friend Billy Apter wasn't working for this rag. Well, that just goes to show ya, friendship still *means* something to Buddy Jack Roberts, even though everyone's saying it don't.

I don't understand how I got to be the fall guy in this whole thing, since The Freebirds have always been against the Von Erichs, and *Hayes* was the one that decided to become friends with those slime. He might say it ain't so, but the truth is that Von Erichs and Freebirds *are* natural enemies.

Let me tell ya something: It may have happened a long time ago, but I still can't believe Bamm Bamm refused to cut Hayes' hair when I told him to at Texas Stadium. And I *still* can't believe that he helped out a *Simpson*. There's something just plain wrong with that.

You know, when me and Bamm



Roberts' war against his Freebird ex-partners has driven him to violent extremes—such as choking Hayes with the ringside barrier rope. All three Freebirds feel that this feud could end soon, but they all have different opinions as to how a settlement could be reached.

Bamm and P.S. were down here the first time a bunch of years ago, we all agreed that the Von Erichs were evil, that they bought off the refs and controlled all the belts and dictated how everything was done, and we were here to *fight* that. The Von Erichs were flat-out wrong, brother, and maybe the fans and press were against us, but we were right.

It's obvious that Bamm Bamm and P.S. were bought off pretty easily.

Now, all of a sudden, they're fighting for what we'd always been fighting *against*. You tell me what kind of sense *that* makes.

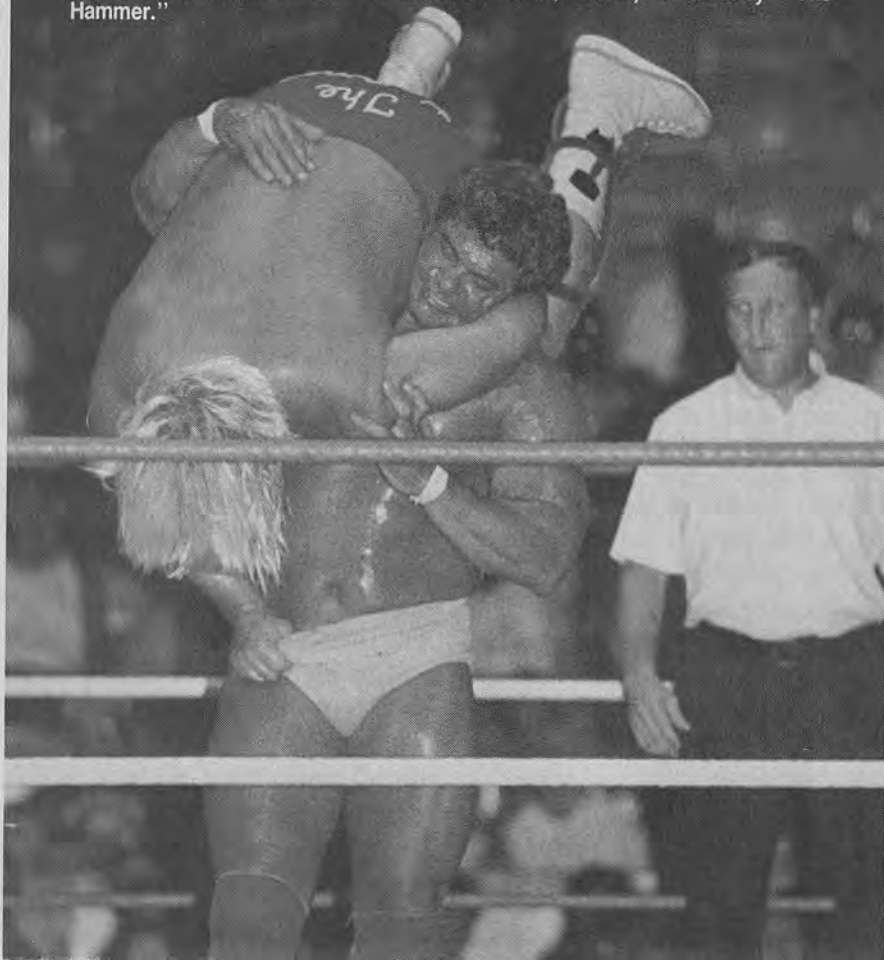
I've got good friends now. Iceman and Samu and the General are always right by my side, but that don't mean there isn't room for more. P.S. and Bamm Bamm are my brothers, and they're welcome back. Our business ain't finished. We've *still* gotta run some Von Erichs clear out of Texas. □

WHY DON MURACO BEGGED THE WWF *NOT* TO SUSPEND GREG VALENTINE!

When Greg Valentine clamped his crippling figure-four leglock on "Superstar" Billy Graham, he did more than end the career of a legend. He ignited sparks of hatred in Don Muraco that have led to what may soon become the wildest feud of the year!



Don Muraco and Superstar Graham are close friends (above). So when Graham was attacked by Greg Valentine, "The Rock" swore he'd use every move in his arsenal (including this shoulderbreaker, below) to destroy "The Hammer."



THE CAREER OF "Superstar" Billy Graham has been one of the most successful in the history of wrestling, which made the attack extremely hard to stomach. The sight of this once-proud WWF champion lying injured on the mat screaming for his life saddened and sickened fans across the country. Greg Valentine had struck again, but Don Muraco blamed *himself* for the intense pain Graham was suffering.

Muraco's nickname is "The Rock," but even a man as tough as he can be reduced to tears by an injury to a friend. Muraco reportedly was in a deep depression following the attack on Graham, but has since vowed to fight back with a vengeance. In fact, Muraco has dogged WWF officials for matches against "The Hammer," whose actions have ended the ringside career of his close friend.

Those actions were unforgivable. Valentine was wrestling young Rick Ataki on June 1 in

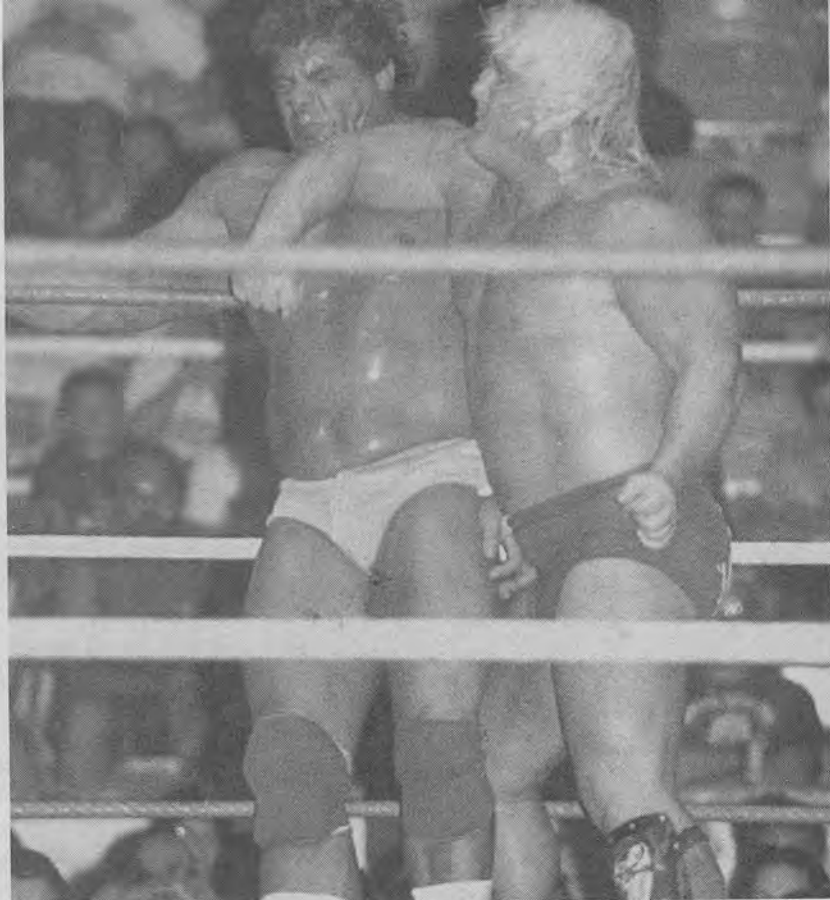
Oakland, California, when the incident occurred. Valentine had Ataki locked in his figure-four leglock, which has been made even more dangerous by Valentine's liberal use of a shin guard on his left leg. After Valentine refused the referee's urging to break the hold, Muraco and Graham (who now walks with a cane) came to the rookie's rescue. Incensed, Muraco broke the hold by hitting Valentine with a crushing elbowsmash.

Had the incident ended there, all would be fine. Unfortunately, it didn't. Valentine's manager, Jimmy Hart, came up from behind and smashed Muraco with his megaphone. Infuriated, "The Rock" chased Hart back to the dressing room. Graham and the referee looked after the injured Ataki, which gave Valentine the opening he needed to brutally attack Graham, locking him in the figure-four until Muraco ran back to ringside. Considering Graham's past hip problems, this was the worst thing that could have happened to the former champion.

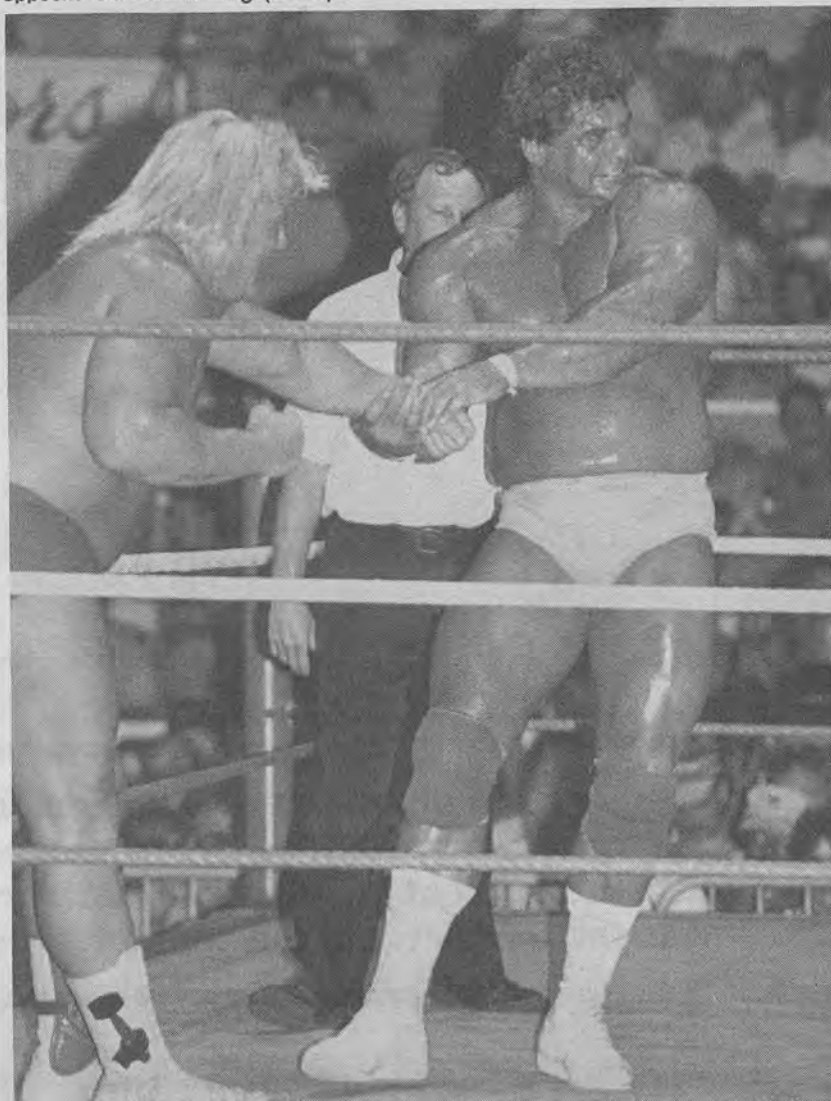
"I wasn't in the arena that night, but I could feel Graham's pain watching it on television," said Dr. Stanley Nimphius, one of the nation's top sports medicine experts and surgeons. "I was familiar with Graham's hip operation, which was caused by the massive amount of stress he put on the joint during his 16 years as a wrestler. That figure-four not only injured his knee, but obliterated most of the good the operation did for him. So when Valentine injured him, he ravaged not only the knee, but the hip and his lower leg muscles, thanks to that shin guard. I'm surprised the man's not in a wheelchair for life."

So is Muraco. The veteran accompanied Graham on the ambulance ride to an Oakland hospital, where emergency surgery was performed on Graham for the second time in nine months (Butch

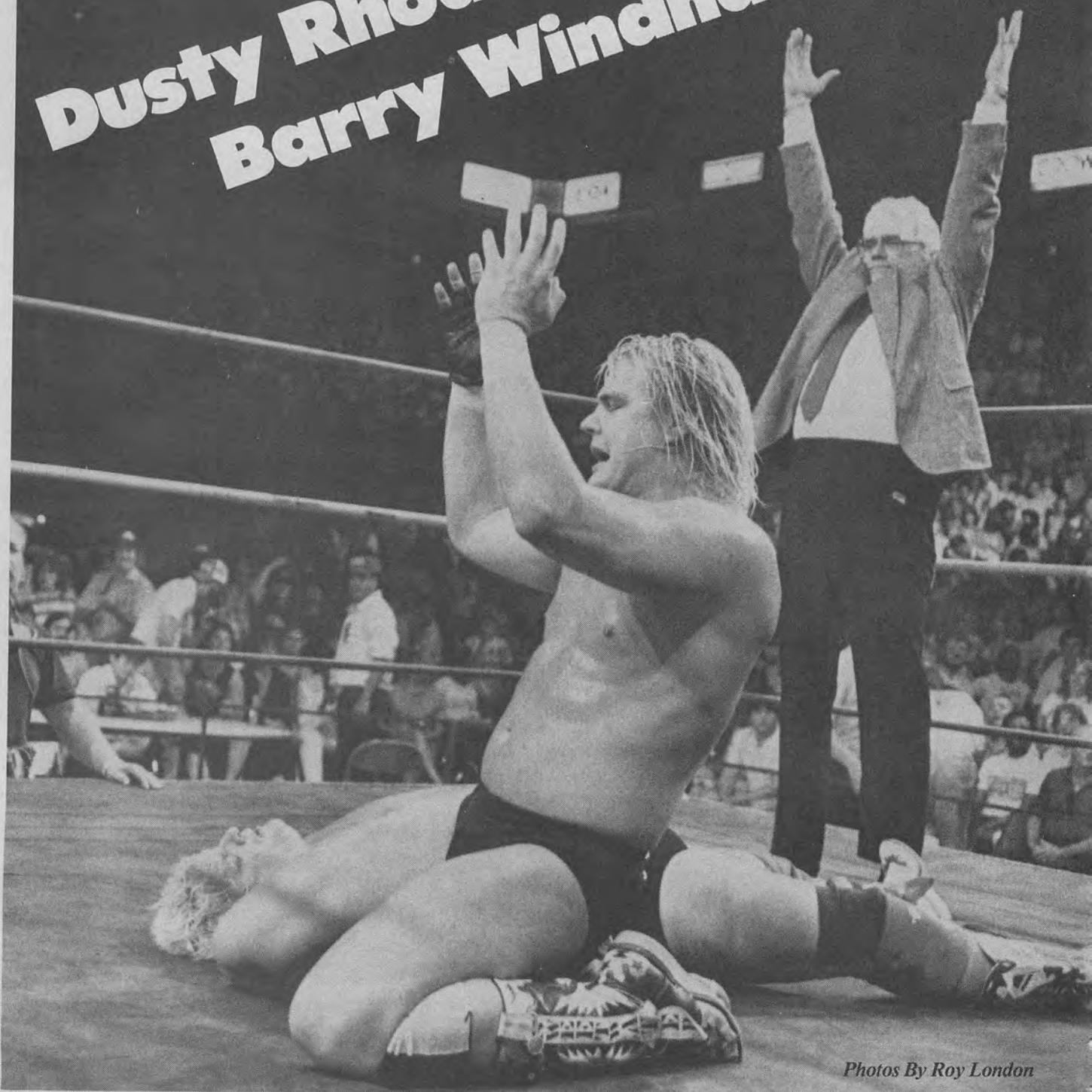
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Valentine's elbow finds its target—Muraco's left cheek—as "The Rock" recoils from the force of the blow (above). Muraco, on the rebound, hurls Valentine to the opposite side of the ring (below).



Dusty Rhodes vs. Barry Windham:



Photos By Roy London

Until Barry Windham joined The Four Horsemen, he always looked upon Dusty Rhodes as his mentor. During the Rhodes-Windham match at The Great American Bash in Baltimore, it was the teacher, not the student, who had to take notes

THE NIGHT THE TEACHER LEARNED A LESSON

THE LOCKER ROOM at the Baltimore Arena was empty. The huge crowd that had witnessed the NWA's Great American Bash had long since left and taken with it the enthusiastic din that traditionally accompanies only the most important sporting events. Dusty Rhodes sat alone in front of his belongings, head between his knees, ambivalent to the movements of the janitorial staff quietly cleaning. Finally, "The American Dream" broke the silence.

"Tell me something, brother," Rhodes said solemnly, his face sweating, his spirit broken. "Is there a knife handle sticking out of my back? 'Cause that's sure what it feels like tonight."

Rhodes again fell silent. Coursing through his brain were the memories of the multifaceted betrayal that formed the nucleus of Dusty's painful trip to Baltimore. Rhodes silently shook his head, recalling both the match against his former student Barry Windham and the sinister interference by Ronnie Garvin. Just then, a Baltimore policeman drifted in. Seeing this blue-clad officer of the law, Dusty again spoke.

"See that policeman? That's exactly how I feel sometimes, like I'm the policeman of the wrestling world. I feel like I'm the man who tries to *stop* the betrayal, *stop* the rulebreaking, *stop* the senseless brutality, and all the while I feel like nobody gives a damn!



Barry Windham and James J. Dillon celebrate their tainted victory over Dusty Rhodes (opposite page). Moments earlier, Windham slams his former mentor (above).

"Look at what's happening in wrestling! All my former students—all these top name wrestlers who *I* brought up—they're all turning against me. They've forgotten what 'The American Dream' means. I mean *really* means. It's not just my nickname, it's a way of life! It means working hard, train-

ing, and caring about the people who got you where you are today.

"Look at Mike Rotundo, for instance. He used to look up to me. He told me so. And now, you think he gives a damn about who I am and what I'm talking about? Do you think he cares about 'The American Dream'? Hell no! Do you think *anybody* cares about 'The American Dream'?"

Quickly, however, Dusty turned his attention back to Windham.

"I have to admit," Dusty continued, "when I saw Barry in the other corner at the start, I said to myself, 'Wrestle Barry? Why would I want to do *that*?' But then I remembered what he's done to me in the past few months. The betrayal, the name-calling, the way he's forgotten everything I did for him, everything we shared. Once it all came back to me, I'll tell ya, brother, I wanted to *kill* him in the ring tonight!

"You see, brother, in Barry's case, the wounds go even deeper. Here was the young Barry Windham, struggling to break away from the influence of his rule-breaking father. Without my help, Barry would never have made it. He'd've been Blackjack Mulligan Jr. his whole life! He was able to be his own man because I *showed* him how! I was his teacher, and this is how he repays me?"

Unfortunately for Dusty, on this particular night, it was the student who taught the teacher a lesson.

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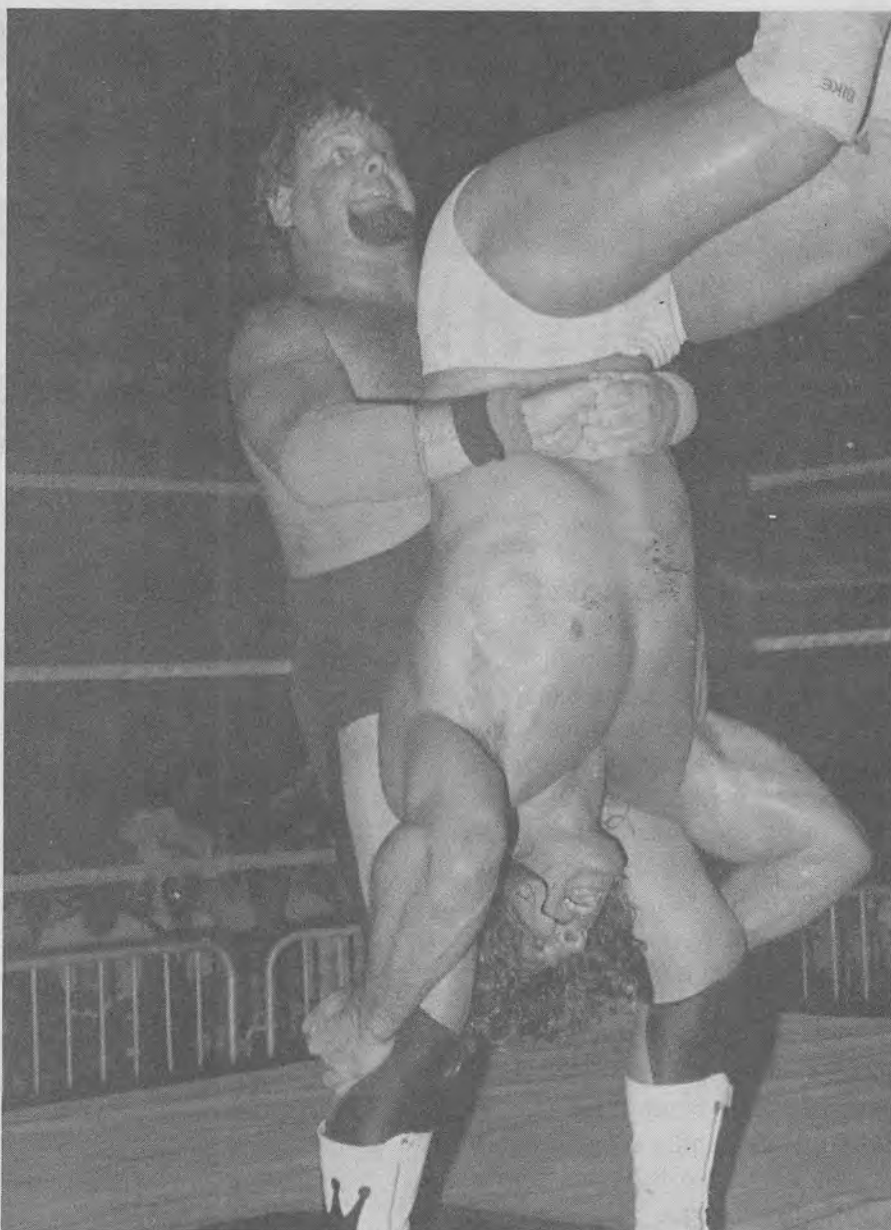
WORLD CLASS CHAMPION Kerry Von Erich and AWA World champion Jerry Lawler have wrestled each other recently in a series of title vs. title matches.

Curt Hennig, Greg Gagne, Eddie Gilbert, Phil Hickerson, Manny Fernandez, Iceman Parsons, Kamala, and Buddy Roberts all lost.

"The way I feel about it," said Hennig, a former AWA World champion, "Lawler's going all around the country wrestling guys from other federations and saying that he's doing it to increase the value of the World title. But let me tell you something, that belt was worth something when I had it, and now it's worth squat. If you wanna hear the truth, he's going around wrestling guys like Von Erich because he's scared of me."

"I wanna know what Von Erich is doing wrestling other champions when there are plenty of contenders right here in Texas," said Buddy Roberts. "What he's doing is using the World Class title to get at another title, but that ain't the way it's done. He should be down here wrestling me."

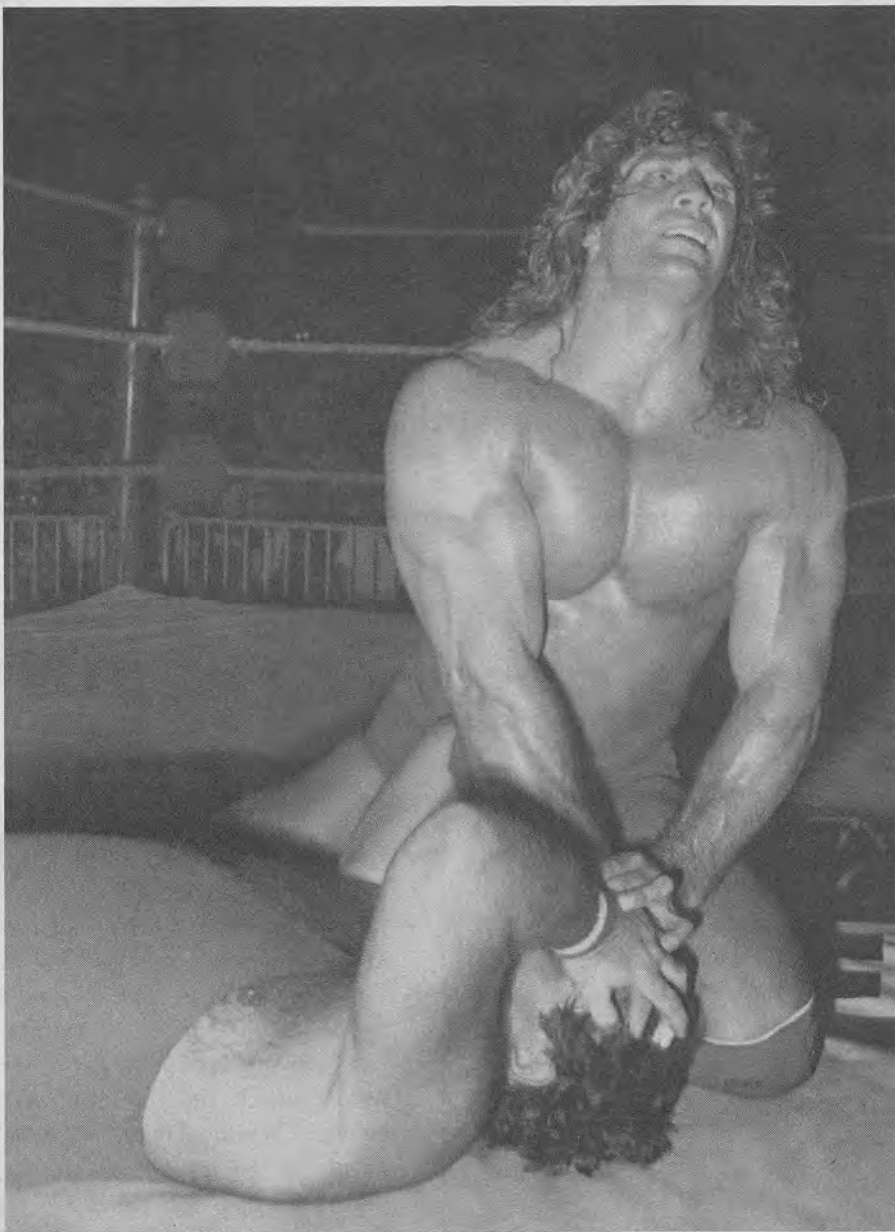
When Lawler won the AWA World title from Hennig in May and announced that he would defend the belt outside the AWA, the news was greeted with great anticipation by fans and wrestling journalists. Years ago, the WWF, NWA, and AWA World champs often wrestled champions from rival federations, as well as Japan and Puerto Rico. That ended with



Both Jerry Lawler and Kerry Von Erich are able to utilize finishing maneuvers. Lawler executes his piledriver ...

Kerry Von Erich

WHEN WORLDS NOBODY



... and Von Erich clamps on the clawhold. But as of yet, there has not been a clear winner in this series of matches.

vs. Jerry Lawler:

COLLIDE . . .
WINS!

There hasn't been a winner yet in the title vs. title matches between World Class champ Kerry Von Erich and AWA World champ Jerry Lawler. But there have been plenty of losers: the men in each federation who are waiting for title shots while Von Erich and Lawler do battle

the promotional wars of recent years. The idea of a world champion—in the literal sense of the word, at least—died.

Lawler apparently neglected to realize that, by resuming the practice of a traveling champion, he ran the risk of ignoring and insulting the AWA's top contenders, men who worked their way up the title ladder much as Lawler did.

Already, Lawler has put his belt on the line against Kerry, former WCCW Texas champion Terry Taylor, former WCCW heavy-weight champion Iceman Parsons, and Austin Idol. All of these men have no affiliation with the AWA. Hennig is the only top AWA con-

(Continued on page 62)

HOTSEAT

LEX LUGER

"THE WORLD KNOWS WHO THE REAL WORLD CHAMPION IS!"

WRESTLING FANS ARE still livid over the July 10 Great American Bash in Baltimore. By all rights, they claim, Lex Luger is the champion of the NWA, uncrowned though he may be. Rarely in the history of wrestling has a competitor been denied a title because of an outside arbiter's decision. But that's exactly what happened during this bout. Ric Flair, once again, has narrowly managed to retain his belt.

It's hard to fault the fans' anger. The muscular Luger had the champion hoisted over his shoulders in his "human torture rack" variation of the backbreaker. Flair was screaming in pain, and the wrestling world was stunned when referee Tommy Young signaled for the bell, ending the match.

Wrestlers ran into the ring to congratulate Luger for what they thought was a title victory. But it was quickly learned that Young had called for the bell because Maryland State Athletic Commission official Ray Ianucci demanded the match be halted—because of a small cut on Luger's forehead.

"The Total Package" has a right to be perturbed. Ianucci claims that the stoppage was in accordance to Maryland State Athletic Commission rules;

others claim that there is no such rule, and a J.J. Dillon payoff was in effect.

Surprisingly, it was Luger who traveled to the *Inside Wrestling* offices to speak with Assistant Editor Bob Smith about the future of "The Total Package."

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I've never seen a match end that way before. When Tommy Young called for the bell, I thought for sure I had won the World title.

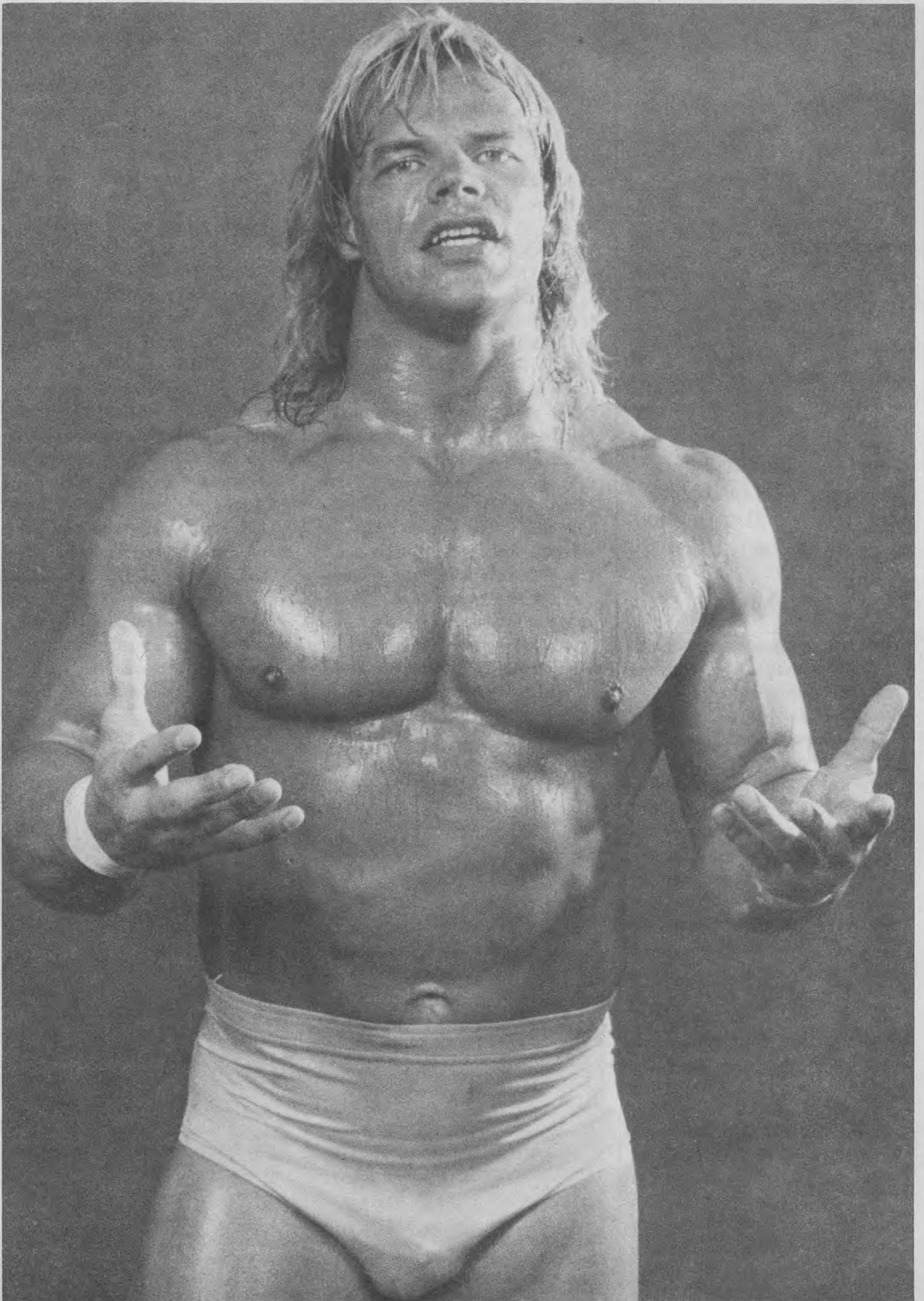
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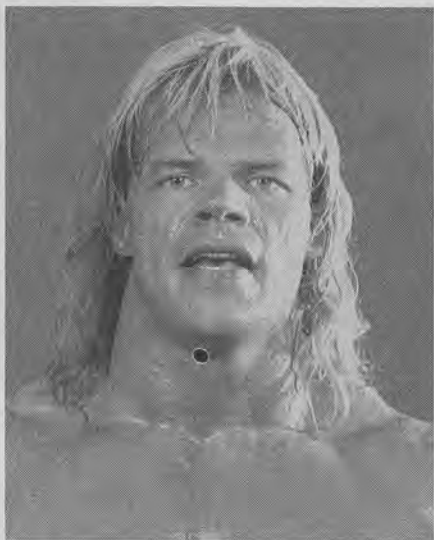
Q: Lex, before we begin the interview, I want to thank you for coming here on your own time. I have to agree with the majority of the fans I've come in contact with, because in my opinion you should be the NWA World champion right now. I can't believe how lucky Flair is.

A: I've tried to downplay all this fuss, but I'm really thankful for the way the fans have rallied behind me following the result of that match. I'm not as upset as a lot of people are about it, or as I was at first, but I have to admit that I've never seen a match end that way ever before. When Tommy Young called for the bell, I thought for sure that I had won the World title. I remember thinking that I was going to go through the crowd and try to shake hands with as many people as I could, I was just so happy. Then the ring announcer said the athletic commission had stopped the bout. That's when the world's biggest bubble was burst in record time (*laughs*).

Q: You were probably crushed at that moment.

A: No, crushed isn't the right term. I was disappointed, and I was very, very tired. I wasn't crushed, because I've gained too much confidence over the last six months to let the result of one match end my championship dream. You know, I didn't build this body overnight. It took hard work and persistence. When I first started to bodybuild,





“

[Ric] Flair submitted to my backbreaker. I made him yell in agony and cry a flood of tears.

”

my friends thought I was crazy because I'd always be training while they were out partying. I guess I showed them, and I'll show Flair in similar fashion. He's taken the easy way out for most of his career, depending on flukes and self-disqualification and payoffs to help him keep his title. But when I face him again, there's no way on God's green earth he can defeat me. That's proven, and that's for sure.

Q: Are you angry with Ray Ianucci, the Maryland State Athletic Commission official who stopped the bout at a point when it looked like you had won?

A: At first, I *was* mad. I thought he had lost his mind! But I talked to Ianucci later that night, and he explained to me that Maryland has rules that apply to ring injuries in both wrestling and boxing. When he saw the blood on my forehead, he was obligated by the Commission rules to stop the match. Granted, I've cut myself worse

shaving, but Ianucci was concerned for my health and welfare. I think he was a little overzealous in his duty, but you can't fault him for trying to do his job to the best of his ability.

Q: Of course, right before that point both Flair and Four Horseman Executive Director James J. Dillon had run your head into the steel ringpost. Do you think they may have known about the strict Maryland rules concerning cuts *before* they tried to injure you?

A: That's possible. In fact, I'm sure of it. I've always said that Dillon was as cunning as they come, and I've never claimed he was stupid. If there was a Maryland rule concerning blood, he was aware of it. I suspect he knew about the rule and kept that knowledge quiet and to himself until he needed it. When he saw that Flair was doing poorly in the match, that he was frantically wrestling from behind, he knew he had to make a move, he had to use that knowledge. That's when he decided to get into the match himself. What else can you expect

from a man like him?

Q: When the match was stopped, Flair was over your shoulders in the backbreaker, and he was screaming at the top of his lungs. Do you think he was about to give up at that point?

A: No, he wasn't *about* to give up—he *did* give up! Flair quit, he couldn't take the pain anymore. You know, for a champion of his caliber, he's got a low pain tolerance, doesn't he? Even if it doesn't count in the record books, Flair said “no more!” at least six times. He had *clearly* surrendered his NWA title. Of course, Tommy [Young] didn't hear it, because the commissioner had already grabbed him by the leg to tell him to stop the match. But it's true: Flair submitted to my backbreaker. I made him yell in agony and cry a flood of tears. The world knows who the *real* champion is. There's no doubt about it at all.

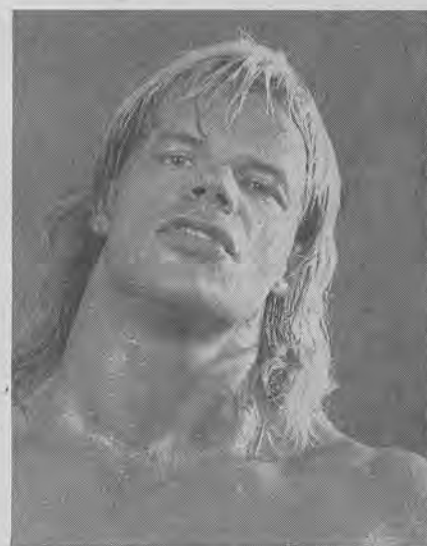
Q: There *is* some doubt whether Flair will grant you another championship match, though. He's said a number of times that you're going



Lex Luger dumps Ric Flair over the top rope to the arena floor. The key action in this match took place outside the ring as Flair and J.J. Dillon both slammed Luger's head into the ringpost, inflicting the cut that would cause the match to be stopped.



Sting and Steve Williams join Luger for an all-too-brief victory celebration (above left). Luger's jubilation quickly turns to confusion as the reason for the match having been stopped is revealed by the ring announcer Gary Michael Cappetta (above right).



“

Flair is scared of me. He was frightened of me even when I was a member of the Horsemen.

”

and Steve Williams, and Jimmy Garvin, people who will stick by me no matter what happens. *That's what's important.*

Q: How important are the fans to you?

A: Very much so. The support of those people who spend their hard-earned money on coming out to see me wrestle, well, it's just a fantastic feeling. That's something that Dillon and his losers will never understand.

Q: Let me ask you a hypothetical question. What will happen the next time you get a match against Flair? Will you change your strategy at all?

A: Not too much. Why should I change my tactics when I clearly defeated him before? Even though I was robbed in Baltimore, I've done something very few men have done—I beat Ric Flair, fair and square. There's no denying that, even though Flair went home with the belt that night. But next time, the gold goes home with *me*. □

to have to wait for another shot.

A: That's a bunch of bull. I mean, if the results of this match don't warrant another title match, then what does? The plain truth is that Flair is scared of me. He was frightened of me even when I was a member of the Horsemen. He knows he'll definitely lose the title if he gives me enough title shots, so he's going to make life hard on me, hoping I'll give it up. I'll *never* give it up. I don't care if it takes forever, I'm going to be the World champion.

Q: Has your quest for the World title put your feud with Barry Windham on the back burner?

A: Not on your life. There's some *serious* bad blood still churning through my veins about what he did to me. You know, I could take being blindsided by him, and I could take him not wanting to team with me anymore. But when he joined The Four Horsemen, that was too much for me to take. There's nothing in the world I detest more than Dillon and his slime. They've prostituted themselves to such a low level to win

and retain their titles that it's almost like the NWA doesn't have titles anymore. That's the way I think about it. In my mind, the titles have been suspended until *real* wrestlers finally restore dignity and pride to those belts. And I'm one of the men who is going to do it.

Q: You probably once counted on Ron Garvin as one of those men. How did you feel when he turned against Dusty Rhodes at the Bash?

A: Garvin can go to hell. Nothing *anybody* does surprises me anymore. I've trained and worked out with Ronnie a lot during the past year or so, and then he goes and sells out for a few measly bucks. You know, he thinks he's a big man now, but in reality he's embarrassed himself. It makes me think back to the days when I was a Horseman. How could I have been so blind? All I was doing was gearing my whole life so I could get rich. One day I finally realized that I had more money than I could use, but there were no people around I could count on. I've changed all that now, because I've got people like Dusty, and Sting,

Jimmy Hart Is Out Of



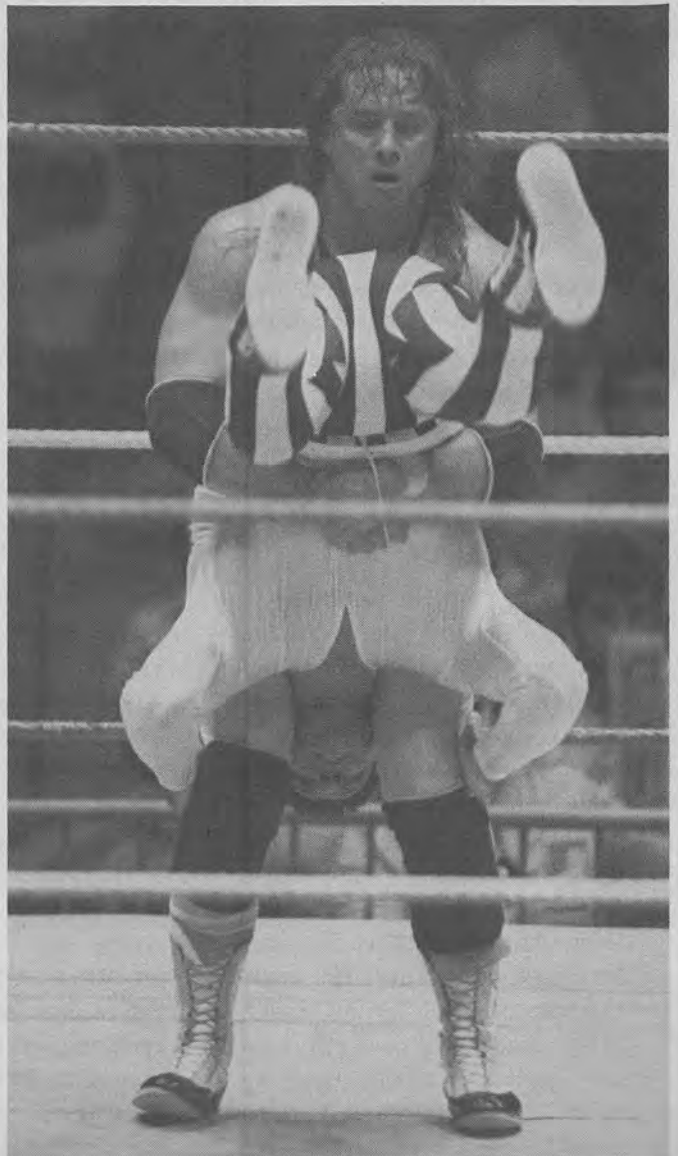
It's not a matter for the faint of heart. Reports of the demise of The Hart Foundation have been completely exaggerated. Though Jimmy Hart was expelled from the organization, Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart are still going strong!

ATENTION FOLLOWERS OF The Hart Foundation: Your favorite tag team is *not* splitting up. Since Bret Hart dismissed Jimmy Hart from his managerial duties, a deathwatch was instituted among fans of the rulebreaking duo. Without Hart, the Foundation's founder and guiding genius, few people gave the team of Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart a chance to endure.

However, with a string of impressive victories already behind them, the Jimmy Hart-less Hart Foundation is making some experts choke on their words.

Inside Wrestling Assistant Editor Gersh Kuntzman, who specializes in analysis of the sport's tag team scene, divined a difficult future for the Foundation after they dumped Hart. "Bret Hart was virtually a preliminary wrestler before Jimmy Hart acquired him," Kuntzman points out. "Bret owes his entire career to Hart's skillful guidance. The same is true of Jim Neidhart. These two men were plodding a mediocre path, essentially going nowhere. Jimmy Hart forged the sum of their parts, imbued them with purpose and confidence, and created a powerful team. Without Jimmy Hart there would not have been any WWF tag team title. And without Jimmy Hart to lead them, it seemed that they'd crumble in record time. Now, after seeing some of their post-Jimmy matches, I'm not so sure."

"Jimmy Hart was what kept the Foundation afloat," observed veteran reporter Matt Brock, who remains unconvinced of the Foundation's ability to succeed without their devious manager. "You simply cannot overlook his contributions to the team. It will be very difficult for them to remain competitive without him."



Circulation . . . **BUT THE *HART* *FOUNDATION* KEEPS PUMPING!**



Jimmy Hart (opposite page, top) no longer manages Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart (above), and everyone's wondering how they will fare without his guidance. Danny Davis is still with Jimmy, and he's not faring well at all against Bret (opposite page, bottom).

Interestingly, Brock is not completely convinced the split is legitimate. He cautions wrestling fans to keep a sharp eye trained on all participants involved in this feud.

"This may be a brilliantly disguised hatchet job orchestrated by Hart," Brock warns, "making it appear as if The Hart Foundation is embroiled in turmoil when the split, in fact, is just a sinister plot to win the confidence of Bad News Brown and help Bret with his feud. Jimmy's no fool. He's capable of the most dazzling skullduggery."

Thus far we *can* be certain of these facts: Several months ago, Bret Hart became disenchanted with Jimmy Hart and chased him from ringside; Hart has not been back since. Jim Neidhart, according to WWF sources, resisted his teammate's decision but has since given in.

And a third important fact: De-

spite a rumored breakup, and Bret's ever-increasing feuds with Brown and Danny Davis, the Hart Foundation has never wrestled better.

"They're wrestling in top championship form," observed Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez. "It's puzzling, that they're doing so well without Jimmy Hart, but there is no doubt they're wrestling as well as they ever have."

Which inevitably leads to the question: How important is a manager? Once the groundwork is set in place, are wrestlers better off without an interfering ring strategist? Managers are adept at waving sticks and tennis rackets and making noise, but are they good for much else?

"People are very naive and stupid to ask such a question," says Paul Ellering. Ellering, in his sixth year of guiding The Road Warriors, claims managers are the most un-

dervalued people in sports.

"We get blamed if our team loses," he said, "but rarely receive credit for the team's success. If there's a problem, it's the manager who is generally cited as the cause."

"Fans are under the impression that wrestlers are created in the weight room and poured into the ring," Ellering continued. "I shouldn't dignify that misconception with a response, but perhaps I can set the record straight. The number of wrestlers who don't need *some* type of management can be counted on one hand. They may not require constant supervision, but everyone, from the champions on down, require managerial assistance. I'm not exercising my ego when I say go ask Hawk and Animal where they'd be without me. Their tremendous success is testimony to the vital role managers play in this sport."

"He's right," Animal concurred. "Our success is his success. Without Paul, me and Hawk'd be bouncing drunks out of broken-down bars."

Jimmy Hart will not comment on the freeze placed on him by his proteges. Both members of the Hart Foundation declined to be interviewed. Because Bret Hart regularly battles Bad News Brown and Danny Davis, The Hart Foundation is hearing cheers for the first time in their WWF careers. Is one of rulebreaking's most successful tag teams in danger of becoming a favorite among the fans?

"Bret Hart is colorful and exciting," says Senior Editor Bill Apter. "I can see the fans taking to him very easily—especially when he battles confirmed rulebreakers like Danny Davis. Hart and Neidhart *must* break the umbilical cord completely. If they wish to command credibility, they must sever their association with Hart. Right now they're in limbo."

Considering their unblemished record since dumping Jimmy Hart, limbo may not be a bad place to be. □



Neidhart drives his knee into Bad News Brown's shoulder as he clamps down with a rear chinlock. Since dropping Jimmy Hart as their manager, Neidhart and Bret Hart have wrestled with renewed vigor.

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The "Superstars Of A Super Summer" special issue of *The Wrestler* is cover-dated December 1988 and goes on sale October 11. This one is sure to be a sellout, so get to your newsstand early!

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

RONNIE GARVIN HAS done it all. He has held the NWA World championship and the U.S. tag team title. He has been the most vicious of rulebreakers and the most beloved of fan favorites.

In the early '70s, Ronnie and his brother, Terry, comprised a feared team—managed by brother Jimmy—that burnt a swath of rulebreaking destruction through the sport. But Ronnie and Jimmy haven't always been on such good terms. For most of the past decade, Ronnie (the fan favorite) and Jimmy (the rulebreaker) weren't speaking. Although Jimmy reformed his hated ways to reunite with Ronnie last year, it now seems that the Garvins are having their troubles once again.

During a Great American Bash match on July 10 in Baltimore between Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham, Ronnie ran to the ring to interfere on Windham's behalf. After delivering his formidable "hands of stone" knockout punch to Rhodes (allowing Windham to successfully defend his U.S. title), Ronnie fled to the locker room to collect a huge payoff from J.J. Dillon and Gary Hart. Rumors that Ronnie's strong friendship with Windham had not wavered after Barry joined The Four Horsemen appeared to be true.

Now that Ronnie and Jimmy are once again on opposite sides of the rulebook, is anything left of their alliance? Can money really come between brothers? Is Ronnie's conversion to the ways of the Horsemen simply a prelude to Jimmy's return to rulebreaking? These are the questions we had in mind as we invited the Garvins to square off . . . "One on One."

ONE ON ONE



"With J.J. [Dillon's] money and influence behind me, I can be World champion again."

—Ronnie Garvin

JIM GARVIN:

Whoa! I usually feel pretty good, Ronnie, but I'm not doing so good today. This is a mighty big surprise, you showing up on time for something. You know, I gave you the benefit of the doubt all those times you showed up late for matches, but now that I look back it all becomes too clear. Have you been in Hart and Dillon's pockets all along? I don't know, Ronnie. I thought I knew you better. I can't believe that you'd let a little money destroy our relationship and your beautiful friendship with Dusty.

RONNIE GARVIN:

I wasn't late, Jimmy, I was just having a few important meetings. And besides, *what* friendship with Dusty? Did I ever hold any belt with Dusty? Well, I did with

Barry—the U.S. tag belts. I've been friends with Windham since he was a rookie in this sport. And another thing, Jimmy, are you going to sit there all high and mighty and tell me that if *you* had been offered all that money, you wouldn't have gone for it? C'mon, who are you kidding?

JG: All I'm saying is that no matter what happened, it was wrong for you to do what you did. I *know* you were friends with Windham, because I was, too, but that's over now. You know that. Barry showed who his real friends are when he joined The Four Horsemen. Do you think he really cares about you? Do you think Dillon and Hart really care about you? They just found somebody who was willing to take a payoff

N ONE



"Who are you kidding, Ronnie? Don't you understand, brother—they used you!"

—Jimmy Garvin

to do their dirty work, that's all they needed you for.

RG: So what if I *did* take a payoff? We've both done that before. Put yourself in *my* shoes, Jimmy. When I was World champion, I took in more money than I had ever seen in my life. It was incredible. I really got accustomed to it. Then, when I lost the belt, it was all gone; it evaporated faster than boiling water. So what if I took a payoff? It doesn't mean I'm a Horseman!

JG: Listen, brother, you associate with scum, you become scum. That's the bottom line of it all. I can't believe you're putting so much value in just money! What about friendship and loyalty? What about being a brother? What about standing up for what you've fought over a decade for?

Hey, as far as I can tell, nobody deserted you. Me and Precious and Dusty—even Barry for a while—we were all still by your side. I know it's tough to lose the World title . . .

RG: Yeah, tell me about it.

JG: . . . but it's like you *gave up* after that. You didn't fight back. Then you allowed yourself to be bought off. Maybe that doesn't make you a Horseman, but you're acting like one.

RG: Fine, I'm acting like a Horseman. How do you think it felt to be World champion one minute and just a contender the next? Where did all my title shots go? Where did all the big checks go? With J.J.'s money and influence behind me, I can be World champion again.

JG: Who are you kidding, Ronnie?

Tully [Blanchard] and Arn [Anderson] are the World tag champs, Windham's U.S. champ, and Flair's the World champ. Where do you think that leaves you? Don't you understand, brother—they *used* you! They didn't help *you*, you helped *them*!

RG: So what? The money's real. I told you: I'm not in league with the Horsemen, I just wanted the money.

JG: So that's what it all comes down to: You're available to do anything at any price, and your values mean nothing. You know what that means, Ronnie? It means *you* mean nothing, and as long as that's the case, your money means nothing, either.

RG: Boy, you *do* have a short memory, brother. If I remember correctly, not too long ago *I* was the one telling *you* about integrity and honesty, and *you* were the one who turned his back on *me*. You can say your values have changed, but they haven't. And what about Dusty Rhodes? *There's* a guy who's never gone out of his way for anybody but himself. Do you really think he cares about me? He cares about money, and that's it.

JG: Oh, come on, Ronnie, the *last* thing Dusty cares about is money. Dusty's honest, and he cares a hell of a lot more about his friends than you do.

RG: Listen, Jimmy, I've been in this sport a long time. What I did has nothing to do with you. When we were on opposite sides all those years I never did anything to hurt you. But I've learned that I've got to look out for myself, nobody's gonna do it for me. Hart and Dillon gave me an opportunity and I took it. They gave me a chance to help Barry, and I took that, too. So don't tell *me* about friendship.

JG: If that's all it was, I could believe you. Unfortunately, I know better than to think that this was all a one-shot deal; it's the beginning of something I don't really understand. You're turning into somebody I don't know. Maybe you can fool the media, Ronnie, but you can't fool your own brother. I can tell you're confused. Come on back—before it's too late. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

Lawler. Fans were to call in order to select the referee for the title match. The choice was between Jackie Fargo, a longtime Lawler friend, or Larry Hennig, Curt's father. Either way, justice loses! Why couldn't they just get someone impartial like Gary DeRusha to referee the match?

If the AWA doesn't cut this kind of nonsense out, they will lose many fans. I'll be one of them.

JENNY LaMOTT
Dover, NH

Now I feel satisfied that Michael will never associate with that lowlife again. I understand the pull that memories can sometimes have, and I am definitely hoping that Hayes will not be drawn into reuniting with the other Freebirds.

They were a close-knit group of wrestling buddies. They ate together, they caroused together, and they wrestled together. Old friends are the hardest to break away from, but I'm glad that Michael has done it. I hope Terry Gordy stays on the good side, as well.

KEN KRAMER
Newport Beach, CA

NO CLASS IN TEXAS

Recently, while watching a broadcast of World Class wrestling, I was astounded to see a shameless sneak-attack perpetrated by Buddy Roberts against his former partner and friend Michael Hayes.

Not that I could expect anything but a craven attack by Roberts; the man is devoid of honor and commitment to fair play. But calling in Michael in order to preach unity, and then beating him up when his back is turned, certainly justifies the greatly diminished view the fans have of him since the Freebird breakup.

GILBERT'S GAMES

Recently I heard that Eddie Gilbert's interference in Austin Idol's AWA World title match with Jerry Lawler actually succeeded in *helping* Jerry Lawler retain his belt. I guess that shows that Gilbert's feud with Idol is even more important to him than his longtime rivalry with Lawler.

In the match, Idol had Lawler ready to submit to his punishing figure-four leglock. Just then, Gilbert ran in and threw fire into Idol's face, leaving him

(Continued on page 50)



After knocking Michael Hayes unconscious, Buddy Roberts and The Samoan Swat Team congratulate each other. The Hayes-Roberts feud, notes reader Ken Kramer, proves that Roberts is a shameless man with no sense of fair play.

THIS MONTH IN...

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THE Wrestler



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)

unable to go on. After that, both Lawler and Idol needed medical attention. But Lawler still had the belt that just as easily might have fallen into Idol's hands.

What this incident proves to me is that Gilbert is extremely serious about his war with Idol. Perhaps the ego-bruising experience of being rejected as a partner fuels Gilbert's aggression. Whatever the reason, by inadvertently aiding Lawler, Gilbert is showing that he is so completely blinded by his rage for Idol that he would even undertake the unthinkable: helping Lawler.

Who would believe that we'd ever live to see *this* day?

ANDY HEYMAN
Hamilton, AL

A SERIOUS MATTER

I read Dave Rosenbaum's "Behind The Dressing Room Door" in your September 1988 issue, and I want to commend him for his comments on

The Dirty White Boy and The Dirty White Girl. I fully support his opinion that making light of domestic violence is an outrage. To make fun of such a horrible crime should itself be a crime.

Maybe what these people need is a suspension for 30 days. Maybe then these people will learn not to make a joke out of one of this country's truly serious problems.

EUGENE BAUH
Falls Church, VA

ROCKIN' 'N' ROLLIN'

I'm writing about the letter "A Woman Scorned" by Deb Smith in your September 1988 issue. I think she had a right to be mad and disappointed about The Rock 'n' Roll Express leaving the NWA. I know I was.

But why just blame Rick Morton? Isn't the Express a *team*? If they wanted to leave, certainly Robert Gibson had something to say about it. They're

both grown men who can make decisions for themselves.

I didn't send in the petition to bring back the Express because, frankly, I didn't think it would work. I thought it wouldn't matter *what* the fans thought. Well, I was proven wrong; a lot of fans sent in the petition and, lo and behold, the Rock 'n' Rollers are back where they belong!

Let's be honest, The Rock 'n' Roll Express has fans all over the country. When they left the NWA, they were just giving their other fans a chance to see them. They didn't *use* the NWA fans, and their return is testimony to that.

Deb Smith can believe what she wants, but I will support Ricky and Robert as long as they put on tights and step into a ring.

JEANETTE HYER
Stockton, MO



Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony and Dirty White Girl Lady Mystic made fun of domestic violence on a recent Continental broadcast. Eugene Bauh agrees with Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum that this was utterly shameful.

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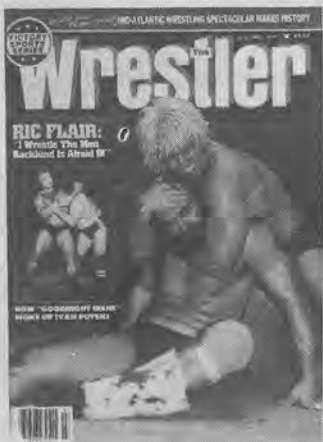


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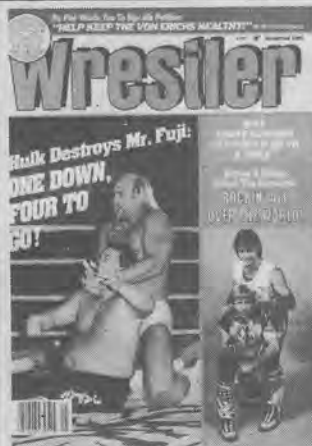
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May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.
June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.



JULY 1983

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.
August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.
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December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.
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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.
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November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

hospital later that evening when, according to Atlas, Brody answered: "I'm only going to say it one time: Jose Gonzalez," in response to a paramedic's question, "Who did it?"

"Tony was standing in the room with us the day after it happened," Samoan Sika said, "and he said, 'He murdered him, he murdered him,' but everybody's kind of paranoid down there. We don't know anybody." Atlas was understandably scared, but, escorted by Sika, he decided to make a statement to the police.

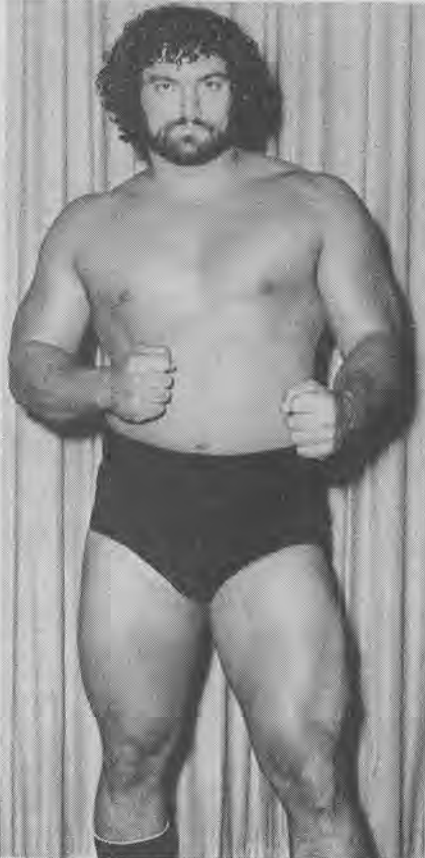
"A lot of my family said, 'Don't speak,'" Atlas said. "But nobody had spoken up. I was the first to speak up. I'm telling you, it was cold-blooded murder. He never suspected a thing. I felt a responsibility to say something. I come from a Southern Baptist home."

Atlas said he told police that he walked into the locker room with Brody and Dutch Mantel. Victor Jovica, Carlos Colon, and Gonzalez were sitting on a bench in their wrestling outfits. Atlas said he was talking to Mark and Chris Youngblood and Brody when Gonzalez walked up to Brody and said, "Brody, *m'amigo*, come here for a minute, *por favor*."

Atlas saw Brody follow Gonzalez into the adjoining shower room. Gonzalez then allegedly wheeled around and stabbed Brody between the pectorals and the stomach. Atlas, the Youngbloods, and Colon heard Brody scream and ran for the shower door. Then Atlas said he saw Gonzalez stab Brody again.

By all indications, Atlas will be the chief witness in the case against Gonzalez, a 42-year-old wrestler and part owner of Capitol Sports Promotions, the parent company of the World Wrestling Council. Dutch Mantel, who ar-

rived at the arena with Atlas and Brody, had stepped out into the dugout area of the stadium when the stabbing took place. The Youngbloods, apparently, were facing in the wrong direction. Colon claimed that he was not present at the time, but Colon, majority owner of the WWC, was allegedly the first person to grab Gonzalez and was at Brody's side afterward.



This portrait of Bruiser Brody was taken less than a year after his 1974 debut. A wild competitor, Brody was respected among his peers as an honest, intelligent man.

"[Brody] was saying, 'I need help, I need help,'" Mantel said. "[He] was telling Carlos, 'Please tell my wife I love her and tell my little son I love him.' It was hell. [He] knew he was dying. I just went into a corner and said a prayer for him."

It's unfortunate that most people never saw the Bruiser Brody that his family and friends will remember. Although a wild animal

in the ring, Brody was eulogized by fellow wrestlers as "a man's man, a stand-up guy, an intelligent, quiet man."

"He was very deep," said Atlas. "He tried to give you a different outlook. If you told Frank, 'Let's do this,' he'd always say, 'Why not do it a different way?' He had a degree in journalism. He always had a newspaper and he'd just sit and read his paper. He was like a bookworm. I never saw him not reading."

Having spent the better part of a week speaking with people about Brody's death, I'm left with the impression that we might never know why he was killed. Gonzalez has been called a "hot-head" by several people, but according to WWC part-owner Victor Quinones, "Jose is a calm guy. He's always joking around. I don't know Jose to have a temper." It was originally reported by police that Gonzalez and Brody were having an argument, but, according to Atlas, Gonzalez stabbed Brody immediately after entering the shower.

Because Brody was an American killed, allegedly, by a Puerto Rican in Puerto Rico, people are concerned that justice won't be done in this case. "On Wednesday [July 20], one of the wrestlers came over to my room in a cold sweat and said, 'Tony, please leave,'" said Atlas. "He was worried that somebody might try to kill me because I spoke to the police." Atlas left the following day for his home in Texas.

At press time, a motive for the killing hadn't been established. The murder weapon was missing. Gonzalez was charged with first-degree murder and weapons violations, then released on \$120,000 bail. A preliminary hearing was set for August 8. □

Wrestling

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October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keim.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

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January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

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May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.

September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.



October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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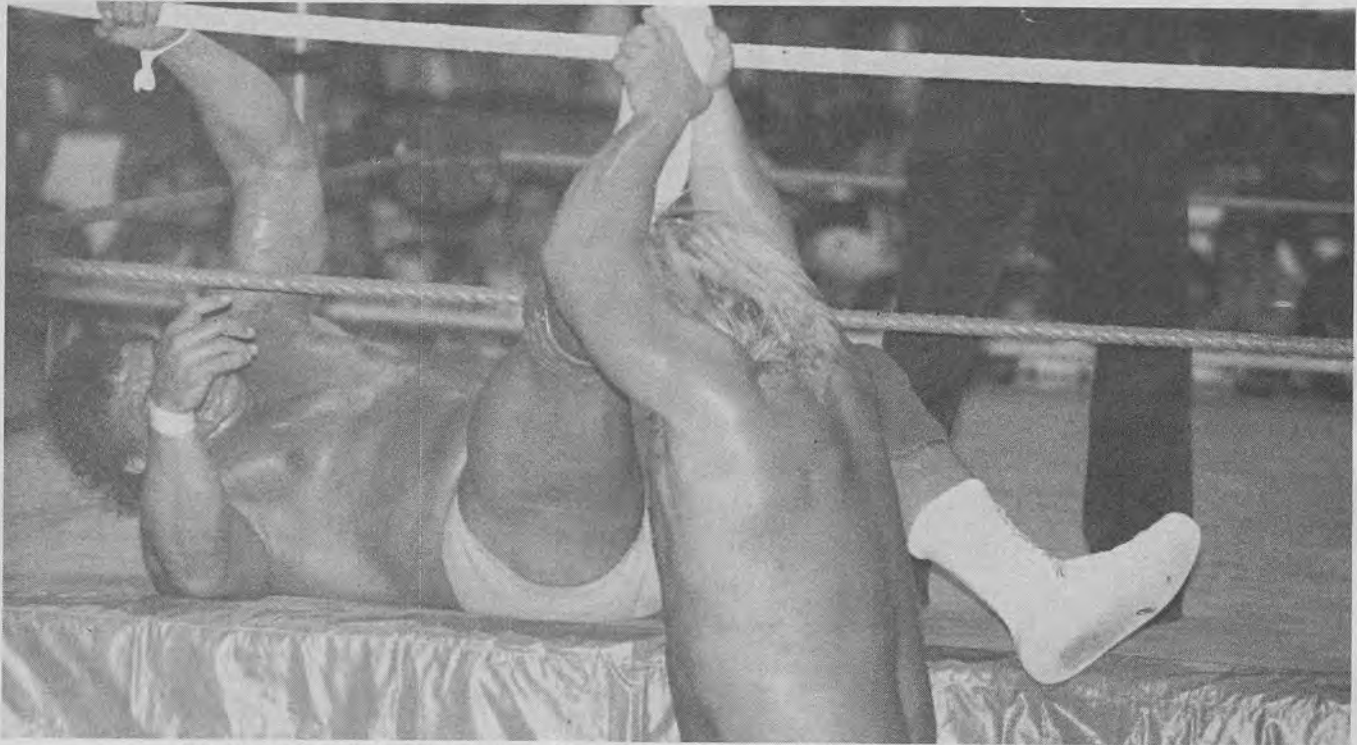
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MURACO VS. VALENTINE

(Continued from page 33)

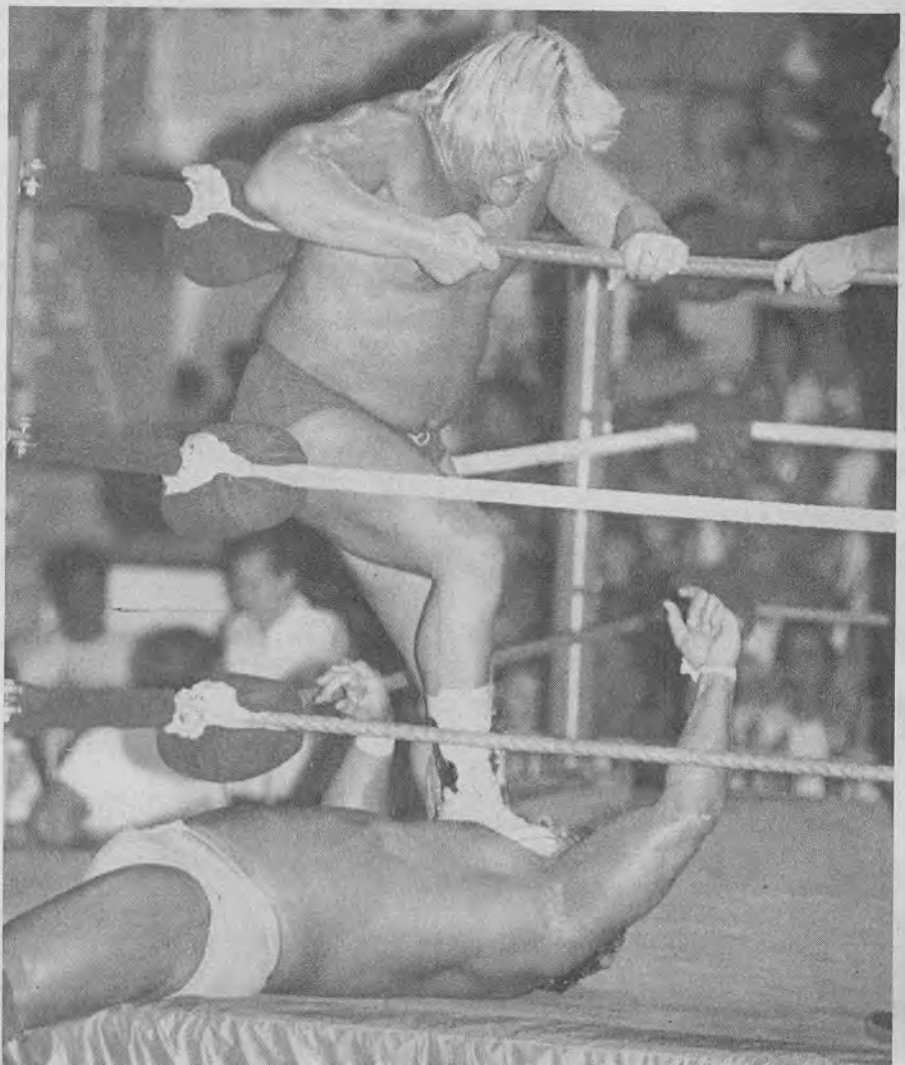


Valentine concentrates his attack on Muraco's leg from outside the ring (above) and buries his boot in "The Rock's" throat (below). Muraco is determined in his war with Valentine, but has quickly learned that "The Hammer" is a formidable opponent.

Reed and One Man Gang had re-injured the hip last October). Muraco was relieved when the doctors told him that Graham would be able to walk, but was incensed when he was told that Graham should stay away from any wrestling-related activities for the rest of his life. After all, Graham had literally changed the course of Muraco's career.

Until late 1987, Muraco had toiled for years as one of the sport's most hated men. Graham had traveled that same road, and he taught Muraco the error of his rulebreaking ways. Each man became the other's inspirational mentor; Graham pushed Muraco to resume the training regimen that restored his incredible physique, and Muraco utilized Graham for his match strategies, keeping his mind active despite his hip surgery and inability to wrestle on a full-time basis. Each man was good for the other.

Now, Muraco must wrestle with-



out the man who rejuvenated his career. "The Rock" isn't about to take Valentine's action lightly—but he doesn't want Valentine merely to be chastised by officials. Indeed, President Jack Tunney was reportedly prepared to suspend Valentine for a lengthy period of time, but Muraco lobbied federation officials for an audience with Tunney.

"Muraco bugged Tunney every day for about a week," said a source close to the WWF president. "Each day, Muraco was hanging around his offices. And when a man like Don wants something, it's very hard to turn him down. Muraco firmly believes that only he has a right to revenge."

Apparently, Muraco got his wish. The WWF has issued no official punishment to Valentine. Instead, officials gave Valentine a punishment that may be worst of all: a series of matches against Muraco, who has publicly vowed to end "The Hammer's" career.

To Valentine, the injury to Graham is just another success in his long career of sadistic action. In years past, he was responsible for career-threatening injuries to Chief Jay Strongbow and Tito Santana. Now he's added Graham to his list, and he claims that Muraco will be next.

If Valentine isn't careful, he may find that his actions could lead to his own demise. The first bouts between the two competitors have offered only a hint of the carnage Muraco has shown through the years to be capable of.

The next time Muraco delivers one of his spine-busting piledrivers to Valentine, don't be surprised to see another ambulance speeding out of the arena. With the memory of the hospital-bound Graham still alive in his mind, Muraco will be more than happy to see Valentine lying in a hospital bed of his own.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

tripped over his untied bootlaces and knocked himself out.

After years of bouncing around the WWF, Gonzales moved to Puerto Rico, donned a mask, and gained recognition as part of a tag team known as The Invaders. I won't argue with the moderate success Gonzales achieved under the mask. Technical skills are not at a premium in Puerto Rico; the emphasis is placed on the ability to draw blood, a task at which Gonzales appears gruesomely qualified. Despite his modest triumphs, Gonzales—like the assassins of the Kennedys, Dr. Martin Luther King, and John Lennon—will be (if convicted) best remembered for the achievements of the man he murdered than by anything his mediocre hands could accomplish for themselves.

The device has not yet been built that could measure the incal-

cutable anguish Brody's death caused his friends and foes. Except for the death of a child, there is no greater sadness than the passing of a great man before his time.

"He was the best competitor—and best friend—you could ever have," said a nearly inconsolable Stan Hansen. "This kind of thing just shouldn't be. A man works hard his whole life. Brody never threw a cheap shot. Never. Another man has no right to end it for him that way."

"I fought with him and I fought against him, and I've never met a tougher man," said Kerry Von Erich, no stranger to tragedy. "The sport won't be the same without Bruiser Brody."

The "Mercenary of Mayhem" left his stamp in every corner of the world. "It must be a mistake," insisted shocked Japanese pho-



This exclusive photo from Brody's last match finds Abdullah the Butcher grabbing Brody's hair from outside the ring. The July 15 bout in Ponce, Puerto Rico, saw Brody and Carlos Colon face Abdullah and Dan Spivey, who won when Abdullah pinned Colon.

tographer and reporter Wally Yamaguchi. "No way Brody is dead. No one can kill him. No one."

Of the hundreds of American wrestlers who visit Japan each year, none were as revered as Brody. "I believe Brody was the most underrated wrestler in the world," said Japanese wrestling legend Shohei "Giant" Baba. "He was capable of defeating any man in the world with violence or science. It is a tragedy he never got his due in America."

An in-depth scientific analysis of the 100 top wrestlers published in the Fall 1986 issue of *Wrestling Superstars* named Brody as the world's number-one grappler, leaving men like Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, and Kerry and Kevin Von Erich in his tumultuous wake. When informed of this particular finding, Brody laughed and asked, "And what will this tremendous honor do for me? Will it feed my wife and clothe my children? Will it buy boats and cars and vacation homes? Keep your scientific analysis—show me a ring and write me a check and I don't care who I wrestle."

A murder inevitably leaves unanswered questions. Why would Jose Gonzales murder Bruiser Brody? Could the spotlight that was Brody's constant companion have driven the volatile Invader mad? Brody possessed a miser's love for money and a playboy's desire to spend it; was their dispute over a financial debt?

Careful investigation will answer these questions. But careful investigation will not return Brody, the family man, to his wife and child or their San Antonio home. It will not return Brody, the warrior, to the ring.

It's a careless reporter who deifies a man simply because he's died. I dare any man to call me careless when I say the toughest wrestler to ever walk into a ring is no longer with us. ☐

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RHODES VS. WINDHAM

(Continued from page 35)

It wasn't a lesson in mat strategy; Dusty doesn't need one. It wasn't a lesson in brutality; Dusty can return an opponent's viciousness with equal aggression. It wasn't even a lesson in rulebreaking; Dusty's been there, too.

That night in Baltimore, Dusty learned the most painful lesson of all: He learned about betrayal.

In the locker room, Windham was jubilant about the match. But more than that, he was enjoying the manner in which he won. At the very moment when Windham appeared beaten, Ronnie Garvin, Windham's one-time U.S. tag team partner, entered the ring and—with the referee knocked out—delivered his "hands of stone" kayo punch to a stunned Rhodes. J.J. Dillon then revived the fallen referee just as Windham had clamped his formidable clawhold on Dusty for the pin.

"Ha, Ha! We had that whole thing planned for months, just waiting for the right time!" he said. "J.J. [Dillon] and I have been talking to Ronnie, and Ronnie understands the value of a good payday. Besides, Ronnie and I go way back; we were U.S. tag champions. We've been through some tough times, but it's great to see we can still rely on each other. The money that me, J.J., and Gary [Hart] arranged to pay him was just a token of our appreciation. I finally got to teach that self-righteous egotist Rhodes a lesson he'll never forget!"

"Is that what he told you?" Rhodes muttered. "Well, brother, the man is right. I don't like to admit this, but 'The Dream' got careless tonight. I really *did* learn a lesson: I learned that you can't trust *anyone*, not even your long-time friends! I can't *believe* that Ronnie Garvin would do this to me. My heart is heavy and hurtin', daddy. I'm hurtin' for Barry, too.



With referee Tommy Young unconscious outside the ring, Rhodes had Windham pinned for at least a 10-count (above). By the time Young makes his way back in, Ronnie Garvin has made his presence felt and the situation has changed drastically (below).



We used to be so close. Now this. And how could I lower my guard like that during a match?"

Knowing as he does that the

Horsemen take their titles very seriously, it is somewhat surprising that Rhodes was unprepared for a sneak-attack. Had it not been Gar-



Rhodes, the victim of a Windham clawhold, is embarrassed by what happened to him. But, more important, he is deeply hurt inside.

vin, it could have been Ric Flair or Tully Blanchard or Arn Anderson. Certainly someone who's survived match after brutal match against the formidable foursome would learn not to take anything for granted—least of all in the heat of battle during an important title match.

"What's Dusty complaining about?" Windham said, seeking to justify his recent actions. "I have no emotional ties to him. Just because we worked out together doesn't mean I owe him anything. I owe only one person, and that's me. And I've never made more money or been happier with myself. I don't see how *anybody* can fault me for looking out for myself."

The man sitting alone in the locker room could. He gave too much to Windham to be treated in such a manner. So, while he momentarily felt depressed over the treatment he received from his former student, one could be sure that eventually he would get around to making out his next lesson plan. And a painful lesson it will be. ☐

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FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khru-shev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Orndorff, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Williams, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, R&R Express, Hart, Hogan-Race, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan-Andre-DiBiase, Ellering-Dillon-Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)



Bruiser Brody looks on as Stan Hansen reads a newspaper in Japan. Liz Hunter prefers to recall Brody and Hansen's tag team excellence, not the grisly details of Brody's murder.

leather jacket.

"Listen, I'm sorry about what happened in there," he said. "I'm under a lot of pressure lately." His eyes searched out mine in sincere apology. "I'd like to buy you dinner after tonight's match."

Wanting nothing more than to find an empty rest room, I declined. That night, Adonis pinned Von Raschke. As I left the arena, his bulky presence once again blocked my path. "How about that dinner?"

We ate and talked into the night. I found Adonis to be intelligent, witty, charming—and married. He spoke about his two daughters at length. While it killed the threat of romance, it supplied me with an understanding of a vicious rulebreaker not many people shared.

Years later, when Adonis "emerged from the closet" displaying a bizarre gay persona, I

recalled our dinner. I believe the image he portrayed in the WWF was a desperate attempt to revive his flagging career. While the image change brought Adonis new fame and fortune, I prefer to remember him not as an elephantine homosexual prancing around the ring, but as a gentle family man, concerned with the bruised feelings of a young reporter.

Two years ago, Stan Hansen and Bruiser Brody had just completed a massive tour of Japan and were unwinding with their families at Hansen's beachfront Oahu condominium when a telegram arrived. Shohei "Giant" Baba, whom Brody and Hansen had wrestled to draws during their tour, invited the two back for a special tag team challenge match against himself and Jumbo Tsuruta. Their wives begged them to decline, but Baba's offer was for a

staggering amount of money.

"We're in this business for one reason," said Brody, staring at the wives. "To support you two." The women laughed, and the next thing I know I'm winging my way to Japan with Emma Lou and Stan Hansen and Bruiser and Barbara Brody.

It happened that Baba and Tsuruta, certain of victory before their hometown fans, had changed the contract into a winner-take-all affair.

Brody and Hansen did not protest. They exchanged sheepish grins as they entered the ring. Then they casually ripped the burly Japanese apart. Out of respect for their wives, who sat at ringside, Brody did not split Baba's head open, nor did Hansen crack Tsuruta's spinal cord.

At a dinner in their honor, a Japanese promoter offered Brody and Hansen the equivalent of a million dollars if they would wrestle in Japan on a permanent basis. They declined.

But the point here is not the match or the offer. It's about the gentle and loving relationship enjoyed by the two couples—particularly Bruiser and Barbara Brody. Through the entire trip, I was astounded how swiftly Brody's frightening countenance would melt in the presence of his wife. The two held hands everywhere they went. At the dinner on our final night in Japan, he proposed toast after toast in his family's honor, and never once stopped stroking his wife's hair. The man routinely regarded as the most vicious wrestler in the world was a gentle, softspoken, and articulate giant out of the ring.

Later, as I watched him massacre opponents around the world, the predominant image remained of him gently caressing his wife's head. After his tragic and senseless murder, that is how I choose to remember Bruiser Brody. ☐

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VON ERICH VS. LAWLER

(Continued from page 37)

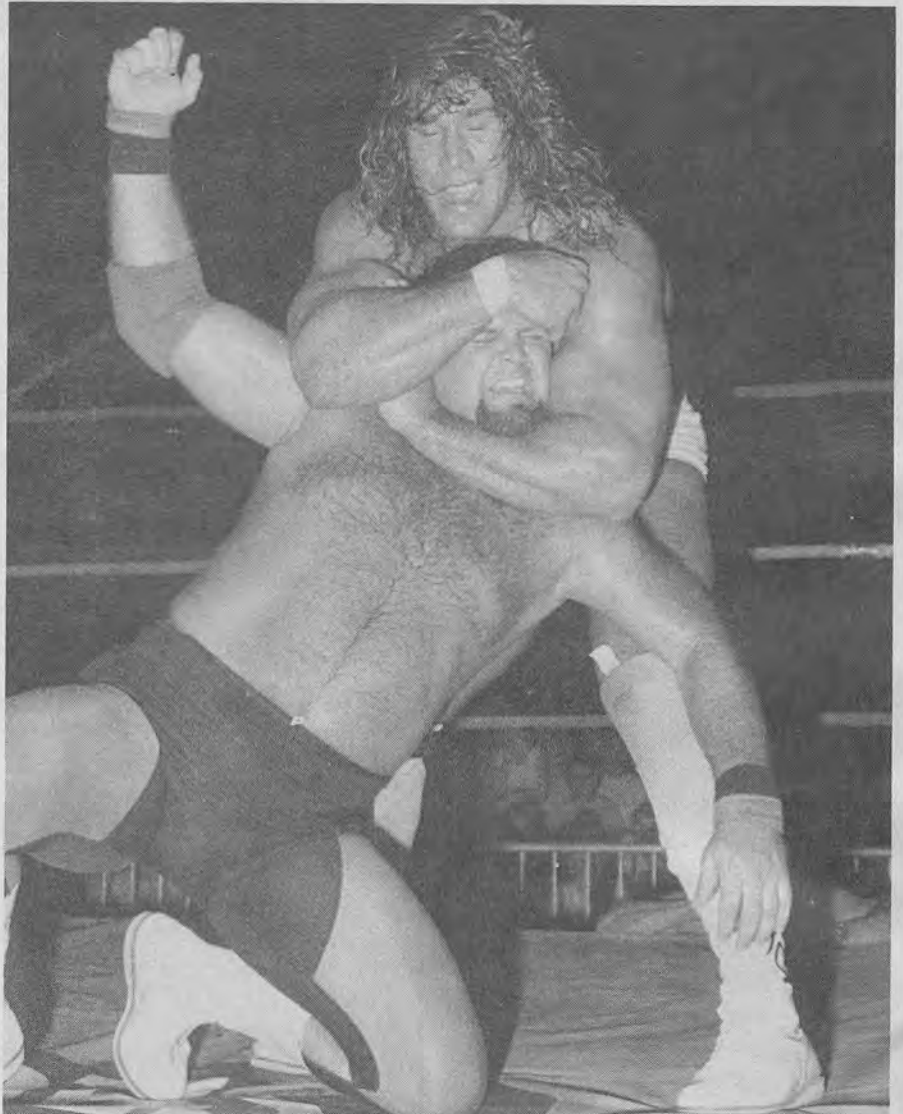
tender who has received regular shots at Lawler, but those, too, have dropped off. CWA grapplers Bill Dundee and Dutch Mantell have also wrestled Lawler a few times, but such AWA stars as Greg Gagne, Wahoo McDaniel, and Manny Fernandez are being ignored.

Similarly, Von Erich's matches against Lawler have left wrestlers like Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and Kamala waiting for an opportunity they feel they have earned and the AWA champion has not. As of press time, Kerry had already wrestled Lawler twice, but several more matches are planned between the two. As Kerry spends more time in Memphis challenging Lawler, he spends less time in Texas defending his own title. In other words, the World Class belt is in danger of becoming off-limits to anyone wrestling in the World Class area! It's a dangerous situation.

As the Von Erich-Lawler battles gain intensity, the probability grows that the WCCW and AWA contenders will have to wait even longer for title shots. On June 27 in Memphis, Lawler and Kerry engaged in a surprisingly vicious, bloody battle that ended with both men being counted out of the ring.

Another match three weeks later started off as a scientific masterpiece but quickly degenerated into an all-out brawl. Lawler tossed Von Erich out of the ring, then bashed his head into the ringpost. Kerry suffered a deep gash on his forehead, but managed to climb back into the ring. When Lawler tried to piledrive Kerry, referee Jerry Calhoun pushed Jerry to the mat (CWA rules forbid the piledriver).

Von Erich then kicked "The King" in the gut and executed a thunderous piledriver. Kerry, how-



Von Erich catches Lawler in a sleeperhold in the middle of the ring (above). Lawler pulls Kerry spread-eagle into the ringpost (below). As these two champions battle it out, what's to become of the challengers in their respective federations?



ever, was unaware that the pile-driver is illegal in the CWA, and when Calhoun called for the bell, Kerry was immediately disqualified. Kerry, who usually wrestles under the WCCW rule that a title can change hands on a disqualification, then prepared to give up his belt. But officials reminded Kerry that titles do not change hands on disqualifications in the CWA and Von Erich was allowed to keep the belt.

So nobody won. And moments later, when Lawler and Von Erich signed contracts for a no-disqualification match the following week, it became apparent that the AWA and WCCW's top contenders had lost again. Nonetheless, Von Erich and Lawler seemed unconcerned.

"My plan is to put my belt on the line against the best wrestlers in the world, whether they're in the AWA or on Mars," Lawler said. "I'd wrestle [NWA World champion Ric] Flair if he'd put his name on a contract. All of these other guys that are complaining are just gonna have to prove themselves worthy. Hennig? Man, he had his chance, plenty of times."

"I have the belt and I'm gonna do what's in the best interests of World Class Championship Wrestling and my own career," said Kerry. "Everybody has gotten plenty of shots at my title, and that's not gonna stop. If you ask me, these guys have no right to complain. Besides, they'd all do the same thing I'm doing if they had the chance. They're jealous, and they're just gonna have to wait on line."

But what will happen if there is a clear winner in one of these title vs. title matches? Would the World Class belt, in Lawler's hands, be forgotten? Would Von Erich defend the AWA World title anywhere but Texas?

These are important questions for the future of wrestling ... and for those AWA and WCCW contenders who are tired of waiting. □

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 8— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 12— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 5— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 9— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 13— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY |
| 3— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 6— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 10— KEVIN VON ERICH
235, Denton, TX | 14— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA |
| | 7— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 11— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 15— MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 8— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 12— JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL |
| 2— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 5— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 9— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 13— RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI |
| 3— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 6— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 10— RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec | 14— DICK MURDOCH
280, Waxahachie, TX |
| | 7— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL | 11— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 15— KENDALL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX |

AWA

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 4— WAHOO McDANIEL
280, Midland, TX | 8— PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN | 12— JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY |
| 2— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 9— BARON VON RASCHKE
271, Berlin, Germany | 13— JAY STRONGBOW JR.
223, Pawhuska, OK |
| 3— SOLDAT USTINOV
265, Moscow, Russia | 6— MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX | 10— MANDO GUERRERO
225, Mexico City, Mexico | 14— RICKY RICE
230, Edina, MN |
| | 7— JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN | 11— TEIHO KHAN
265, Singapore | 15— ROCKY MTN. THUNDER
337, Denver, CO |

WWF

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 8— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 12— BRET HART
235, Calgary, Alberta |
| 2— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 5— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA | 9— DON MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI | 13— DINO BRAVO
246, Montreal, Quebec |
| 3— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 6— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 10— GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA | 14— BIG BOSSMAN
348, Louisville, KY |
| | 7— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 11— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 15— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
255, Tampa, FL |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 8— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 12— WAHOO McDANIEL
Last month: unrated |
| 2— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 5— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 13— MAX PAIN
Last month: unrated |
| 3— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 10— KEVIN VON ERICH
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 14— DON MURACO
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 11— AUSTIN IDOL
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular | 15— NIKITA KOLOFF
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 8— RONNIE GARVIN
Last month: unrated | 12— KEN WAYNE
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 5— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 9— MANNY FERNANDEZ
Last month: unrated | 13— JOHNNY SMITH
Last month: unrated |
| 3— TED DiBIASE
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 6— THE HONKY TONK MAN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 10— GREG VALENTINE
Last month: unrated | 14— BUDDY ROBERTS
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 11— TULLY BLANCHARD
Last month: unrated | 15— CURT HENNIG
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1— TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title | 11— JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
WCCW Texas & Wild West tag team champions |
| 2— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title | 7— PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
AWA World tag team champions | 12— BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN
No. 1 contenders: Stampede International tag team title |
| 3— DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions | 8— THE HART FOUNDATION
No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 13— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag team title |
| 4— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
U.S. tag team champions | 9— THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title | 14— THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
No. 4 contenders: NWA World tag team title |
| 5— THE WARLORD & THE BARBARIAN
No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 10— KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH
World Class tag team champions | 15— THE SHEPHERDERS
No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended July 28, 1988

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JACK ARMSTRONG
(December 12, 1987; from Victor Rivera; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & PROFESSOR TANAKA

(February 26, 1988; from The Mercenaries; Universal City, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TOSHIKI KAMADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI

(March 9, 1988; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(June 10, 1988; from The Road Warriors; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGYO

(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Otori; Tokyo, Japan)

* **ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA AOMATSU**

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BULL NAKANO & KUMIKO IWAMOTO

(February 25, 1988; tournament final over Yumko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Kawasaki, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Adrian Adonis; Las Vegas, NV)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Divine; Las Vegas, NV)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(May 9, 1988; from Curt Hennig; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND

(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas, NV)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: JOHNNY SMITH

(June 24, 1988; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by D.J. Peterson)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Rick Patterson & Steve Ray)

* **CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LORD HUMONGOUS & SHANE DOUGLAS**

(July 18, 1988; from D.I. Bob Carter & Pvt. Pyle; Birmingham, AL)

* **CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEN WAYNE**

(July 18, 1988; from Dan Davis; Birmingham, AL)

* **CWA CHAMPION: PHIL HICKERSON**

(July 10, 1988; from Max Pain; Memphis, TN)

CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT STEINER & BILLY TRAVIS

(June 27, 1988; from Gary Young & Don Bass; Memphis, TN)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(April 18, 1987; from Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASSA SAITO & RIKI CHOSHU

(June 10, 1988; from Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA

(June 24, 1988; from Owen Hart; Osaka, Japan)

* **NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DUSTY RHODES & THE ROAD WARRIORS**

(July 9, 1988; over Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, & Arn Anderson; Chicago, IL)

NWA TV CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(January 26, 1988; from Nikita Koloff; Raleigh, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

(April 20, 1988; from Lex Luger & Barry Windham; Jacksonville, FL)

NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE

(March 20, 1988; from Larry Winters; Forked River, NJ)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(October 31, 1987; from Mike Miller; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE DOLL & SCOTT PETERSON

(May 7, 1988; from Mike Golden & The Avalanche; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU

(March 9, 1988; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(June 4, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara; Sapporo, Japan)

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS

(June 25, 1988; tournament final over Buck Robley; Columbus, GA)

* **SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

TOMMY RICH & STEVE PRICHARD

(July 22, 1988; from The Zebra Warriors; Columbus, GA)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MAKHAN SINGH

(May 6, 1988; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

* **STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**

JERRY MORROW & THE CUBAN ASSASSIN

(July 22, 1988; from Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM

(May 13, 1988; tournament final over Nikita Koloff; Houston, TX)

* **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**

(July 10, 1988; from The Fantastics; Baltimore, MD)

* **U.S.A. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MONGOLIAN STOMPER**

(July 21, 1988; from Doug Furnas; Johnson City, TN)

* **U.S.A. TENNESSEE CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**

(July 22, 1988; from Buddy Landell; Knoxville, TN)

* **U.S.A. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT ARMSTRONG**

(July 22, 1988; from Nelson Royal; Knoxville, TN)

WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)

WILD WEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY

(May 8, 1988; from Steve Simpson & Terry Gordy; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(May 8, 1988; from Iceman Parsons; Irving, TX)

WORLD CLASS JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(December 25, 1987; from Shaun Simpson; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:

TERRY GORDY, BUDDY ROBERTS, & ICEMAN PARSONS

(January 4, 1988; from Matt Borne, Steve Simpson, & Chris Adams; Ft. Worth, TX)

* **WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**

(July 1, 1988; over Terry Taylor & Iceman Parsons; Dallas, TX)

* **WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**

(July 4, 1988; by forfeit from Terry Taylor; Dallas, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY

(April 8, 1988; from Steve & Shaun Simpson; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI

(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIGHTY MILO & TEU

(May 17, 1988; from Farmer Boy Ipo & Leroy Brown; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE

(March 17, 1988; from Masa Chono; Kansas City, KS)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: TNT

(June 18, 1988; from Hercules Ayala; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY JAGGERS & DAN KROFFAT

(June 11, 1988; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE INVADER III

(April 23, 1988; from Tony Falk; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: SUPER BLACK NINJA

(May 14, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENDO NAGASAKI & SUPER BLACK NINJA**

(July 16, 1988; from Chris & Mark Youngblood; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: HERCULES AYALA**

(July 23, 1988; from Carlos Colon; Arecibo, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN

(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL

(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

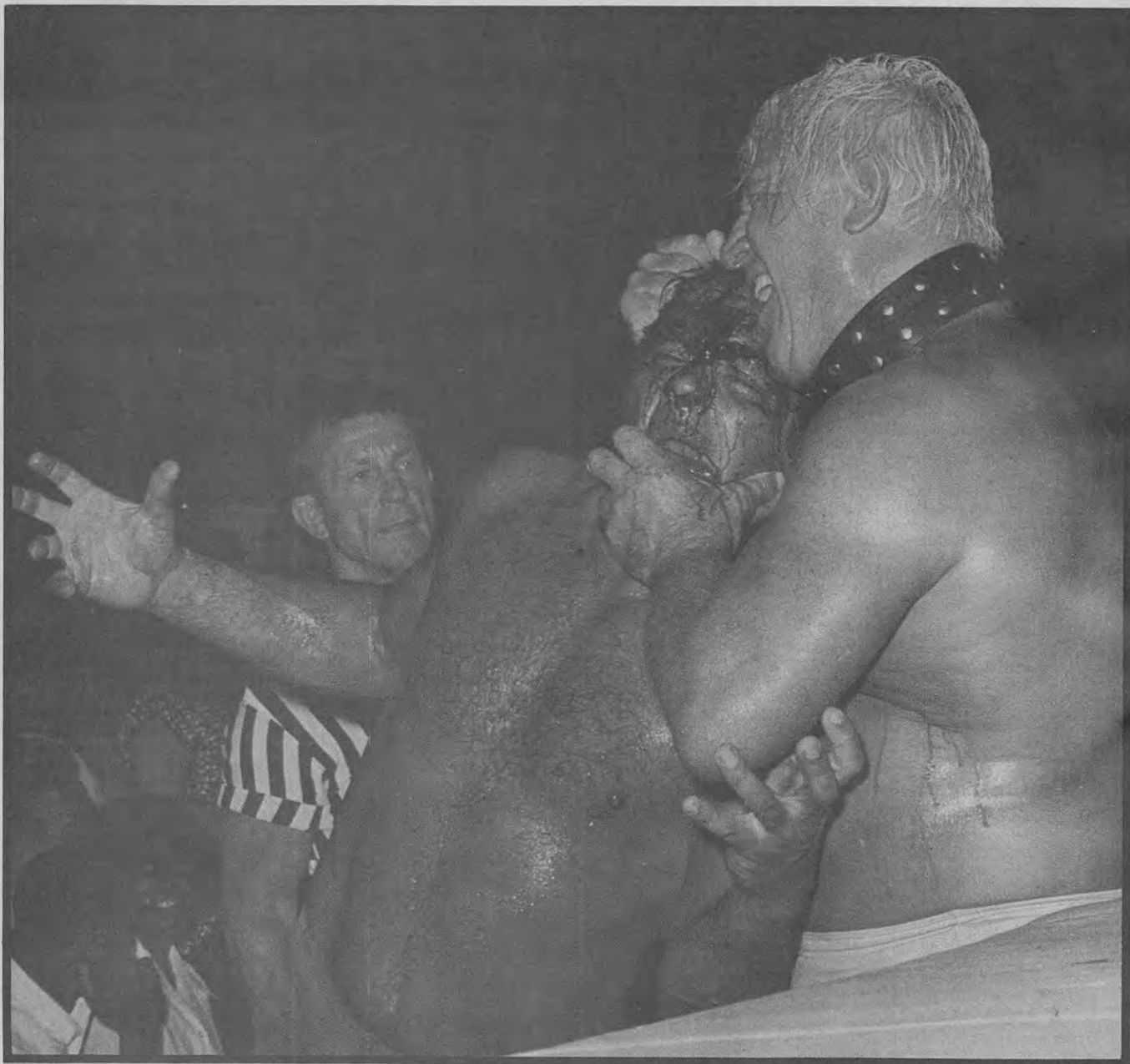
WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

"A FEUD TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO"



FRED BLASSIE vs. JOHN TOLOS

September 1970

Fred Blassie gnaws bloody chunks of flesh from the forehead of John Tolos during this Sicilian stretcher match, one of the most savage bouts in the history of Los Angeles' legendary Olympic Auditorium.

Blassie and Tolos battled for several long, violent months in a feud that set new standards of sadistic brutality. Believe it or not, the fans were solidly behind Blassie—who "won" by carrying the unconscious Tolos out of the ring on a stretcher.

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